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As I write, I'm fresh in from a test session with the new ATN X-Sight. It's 4.30 a.m., and I'm sitting in my office reflecting on just how far we've come in terms of airgun hardware. That journey, and more impressively, its current destination, is truly staggering, and I feel privileged to have been along for most of the ride.

Things began to change, for me and the sport of airgun shooting itself, when Weihrauch brought out its Rekord two-stage, adjustable trigger unit. This was, and remains, a 'proper' trigger mechanism, and the fact that airguns were deemed worthy of such a device caused a seismic shift in our sport, and in our expectations.

No longer would we have to make do with inferior triggers. We had a choice, even if it did take most of us quite a while to fully appreciate the importance of that choice and what it could do for our shooting. Once that particular bar was raised with the Weihrauch HW35 in the 1950s, others eventually followed, and by the late 1970s, there was sufficient interest in airgunning to support

the launch of a dedicated magazine, which you're reading now

SHOWCASE AND PLATFORM

Airgun World gathered the news, products, techniques, expertise and enthusiasm of a formally disparate bunch of hobbyist shooters, and created a showcase for the sport. Things were never the same after that, as the air-powered arms race began, and I'm pleased to say it has continued at a head-spinning pace ever since.

My head is still spinning, actually, and this new X-Sight has kept it rotating at quite a lick. I'm only halfway through the features and functions of this device, so the whirl isn't about to stop any day day soon.

A GOOD TIME TO BE US

Yes, there are challenges to face in 2015 and no doubt beyond, especially for Scottish airgunners, but we're in better shape than ever to do so. We have recognised organisations behind us these days, and they provide

representation at every level. As individuals, our job is to make sure we're a credit to our sport, and to spread the airgunning word as positively and productively as we can. We can do the latter by introducing friends to airgun shooting, or simply by being considerate and not creating enemies.

I've met thousands of airgunners over the years and the vast majority of them have been caring, decent people who would help others and do their bit when required. Let's use this brand New Year to show the world that our sport is a fully legitimate one, populated by worthy folk who respect others and deserve respect in return.

Have a great 2015, everyone, and may our heads keep spinning at the wonder of it all for many years to come.





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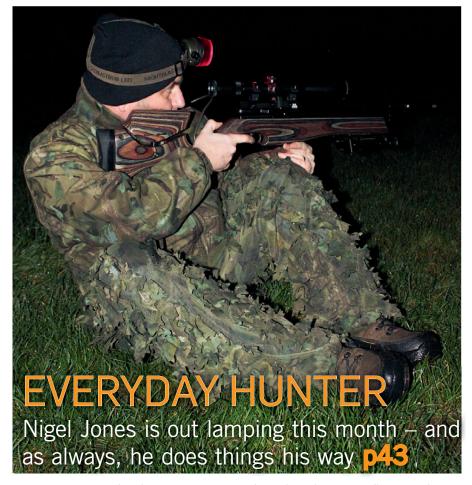
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Show your support for the sport and

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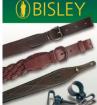
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POINTS OF YOU

THE AIRGUN WORLD FORUM FOR YOUR RANTS, RAVES AND Q&As



WE WANT GEORGE!

What has happened to George Stevens? He is by far my favourite Airgun World contributor and each month I look forward to his plain-speak opinions and practical advice, only to see yet another month go by without him. Please tell me George hasn't gone for good, because I truly believe that our magazine would be the poorer without him.

TONY WELLING

WE WANT GEORGE! 2

Terry, as you may recall, I emailed you a few months back on the subject of George Stevens making his comeback in the pages of Airgun World. Then, you assured me that George was on his way back, yet there is still no sign of him. What's going on? Has he gone for good, because if that's the case, I think you've made a big mistake.

George Stevens, and I spoke at length to him at a game fair, so this isn't just from reading his articles, is a thoroughly down-to-earth person who loves his hunting and knows how to do it well after a lifetime spent in the countryside. He has an easy style of writing that makes his articles simply fly by, and I always find myself nodding my head in agreement with his opinions and advice.

I'm not telling you how to run your magazine, Terry, but, if it's at all possible, please get George back as soon as you can, because his type of advice and opinion is a huge part of why I, and I'm sure many others, read Airgun World. I truly enjoy the magazine, but I'd enjoy it more if George was back.

FRANK SIMMERTON

Well, that's me told and no mistake! The plain

fact is, gentlemen, no one values George's contribution more than I do, and as soon as his schedule allows, he'll be straight back where he belongs. Recently, he's been flat-out with work and family commitments, but things are levelling out now and we're hopeful of a return any issue now. Watch this space, guys! – Ed

IS IT ALL WHITE?

Great magazine, Terry, especially Jim Tyler's technical features, your technique series, and Rosie Barham's cookery lessons. I've been getting Airgun World for over 30 years now, and I can honestly say that it's better now than it's ever been.

Now, can you have a look at the photo of the woodpigeon I sent you? I'm sorry it's not of high quality but I took it on my phone. This bird visits my paddock every day and as you can see, it's far lighter than normal. Do you think it's ill, or is it just a freak? I've seen many a black rabbit and pheasant, but this is my first white woodie!

Keep up the good work.

the level of service we provide, we're now going to recruit

work parties, where we build some permanent hides, clear

stalking paths, and we've even been given the materials to

rebuild fences which will help deter trespassers. All in all,

we'll be building an airgun hunting syndicate, the members

Sharing has worked out so well for us, so please give it

of which will work together to make hunting more rewarding

another two hunters. We plan to have proper organised

DON INLOW

Don – that's the oddest woodie I've ever seen, mate, but it seems fit enough, so it's obviously feeding, and I'd say it's just a pigment

LETTER OF THE MONTH WIN THE JACK PYKE HUNTERS BOOTS

I have a simple plea which goes out to all of those hunters with more land than they can realistically manage. Please, please, please give some consideration to sharing it with a trusted friend. Please note, I said 'trusted friend', and not just anyone. Believe me, I know how precious hunting land is, and after taking three years to gain permission on my own patch, I fully understand why most hunters are reluctant to share it. But there are huge advantages to doing so, and that means to you as well as whoever you share with.

Three months ago, I asked my landowner if I could share the land with a friend, and since then, between my buddy and I we've been able to offer a far better 'service' to the landowner, and because we're keeping an eye on his property in a more thorough way, he's recommended us to two of his associates, and we've just been given permission on another 500-plus acres. In fact, in order to maintain

address, and it's great if you can include a photo, too. I promise we read every communication we get.

and enjoyable.

some thought.

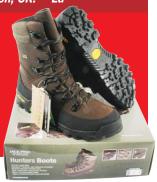
DARREN LORD

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What a great letter, Darren, and I think what you're doing is fantastic. Of course great care would have to be taken when choosing your hunting buddies, but with the right people involved, you could be on to something truly special. Good luck and let us know how you get on, OK? – Ed

Thanks to the generosity of the people at Jack Pyke, we're able to give away a pair of the brand new Hunters boots every month to the reader we consider to have sent the best letter. That's 120 quid's worth of excellent footwear, just for letting us know what's on your mind. You've got to like those numbers!

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Something on your mind? Send us your letters and we'll share your views with the readership. Write to: Points Of You, Evolution House, 2-6 Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, Berks. RG40 2EG. Or email terry.doe@archant.co.uk

aberration, albeit an interesting one. Has anyone else seen anything like this. Do let us know. - Ed



EATING SQUIRRELS -FOR ...

I have to inform Rich Sergeant -January Points Of YOU - that squirrels do, indeed, make fine eating, and while I have eaten rat, during a hiking trip to Malaysia, squirrels are far superior. I can only think that Rich has never tried squirrel stew, fried squirrel, or best of all, squirrel meatballs, all of which are absolutely delicious. Go on, Rich, swallow your prejudice, and some properlycooked squirrel, and you'll soon see what you're missing out on.

TAM PHILLIPS

... AND AGAINST



I'm in complete agreement with Rich Sergeant on the subject of eating squirrels. First, there isn't much meat on them, is there? Also, they're a nightmare to skin, compared to a rabbit, and they do look too much like a rat for me to bother with.

I shoot dozens of the things every year, and I'm pleased to do my bit for conservation, but actually eating them really is a step too far - and I bet there are plenty of hunters who feel exactly the same.

> **GEORGE SERGEANT (NO** RELATION)

OK, George, I think I can help you out, here. Try this, give it an honest go, then come back and tell me if you've changed your mind.

Instead of allowing your shot squirrels to go cold, when yes, they are a nightmare to skin, just prepare them as soon as you shoot them. All you need is a sharp knife and some freezer bags, and you can have a squirrel skinned, paunched and jointed in a few minutes. Then, treat your squirrel joints exactly as you would rabbit, and use them to cook something; Rosie Barham's recipes in this magazine will put you right on that one.

Let me know how you get on, OK? - Ed

PEACE FOR PIGEONS?

I think it's time the Airgun World hunting writers put the readers straight on the subject of consideration for our quarry. I'm speaking specifically about woodpigeon, which are nowhere near as numerous on my shoot as they were in the summer. The last time we had severe weather I found several dead pigeons on the ground below their roosting trees, and I can only presume that they froze to death on their perches.

I love my sport as much as anyone, but there comes a time when all true sportsmen should consider ceasing hostilities until conditions improve. We need to show that we are considerate.

TOP GRUB'S

Prompted by your long-term test on those Grub's boots in the last issue, I went out and bought a pair. I can honestly say that these are the best wellington-type boots I've ever owned, and I've had most of them over the years.

The soles really do grip like proper boots, and the uppers are flexible enough to seal in the warmth, keep out the mud, stay fully waterproof, and with no noisy 'flap' as I walk. These Grub's aren't heavy, either, and I've walked all day in them, no problem. One thing I would recommend is a pair of Sealskinz socks to go with them, and you've got the best wet weather footwear money can buy.

JOE CUDDY









responsible members of the fieldsports community, and that we're in the business of countryside management, rather than involved in a wipeout program.

DEREK SAMMS

FENCE-SITTING EDITOR?

Terry, I've been reading Airgun World for almost as long as you've been writing for it, and I've noticed that you never say what your personal favourite rifles are from the various manufacturers. Are you not allowed to do this, or do you really have no favourites, possibly due to shooting so many different kinds over the years?

Please don't take this the wrong way; I'm really not having a major moan, but I've always wondered what your favourite pre-charged rifles are as far as the various makers go. Any chance of you breaking the habit of a lifetime and revealing your choices? I bet you don't publish this letter, let alone your list of favourites.

JOHN - THE NORFOLK HOBBIT - WARNER

John – there's no big secret about my personal favourites, I assure you. The fact is, I really

don't think my choices are all that relevant to the readership, because they're mine, for my reasons. However, for the record, here's my list of favourites. I'm sure there are others, but these are the ones that immediately come to mind: Daystate Wolverine C, Air Arms Ultimate Sporter, BSA R10 Ultra Carbine, Walther R8, FX Verminator II, Weihrauch HW100 FSB, Impact Airguns GSX 500, Hatsan Galatian II, Benjamin Woodswalker. If it's all the same to you, I'll email the rest as they occur to me, rather than inflicting more of this tedium on the readers - Fd

NO BARRIERS

I'm pleased to see more in Airgun World about shooters with disabilities and challenges such as depression. It proves beyond doubt that those of us who struggle now and again can still achieve great things in our sport, and more importantly, enjoy it to the full. Please can we have more of this kind of article in Airgun World, I assure you they'll be appreciated.

GERRY MONTFORD



The absolute truth.

HOW MUCH PRACTICE?

I've followed your 'How To Shoot A Springer' series with extreme interest, and I can honestly say it's improved my shooting significantly. I'm now able to go through the various techniques without having to refer to the photos in the magazine, and I'd like to push myself to the absolute limit.

To this end, can you please tell me how much training I should do every week, and in how many sessions? I know you were a very

> committed competitor at one time, so vour training must have been extensive. Perhaps this subject would be worth a feature, or even a series?

COLIN **MARTYN**

Colin – when I was at my peak as a field target shooter, I was shooting up to

1500 pellets a week, training every day, sometimes twice, and competing all day on Sunday. That level amounted to an obsession and I really wouldn't recommend it. Instead, I'd advise you to train three or four times a week. shooting around 50 pellets per session, with perhaps a more extensive session at the weekend. If you can train alongside a partner, or at a club with like-minded shooters, so much the better. Above all, never, ever take things so seriously that you forget it's supposed to be fun. I'll have a think about that feature; it could be a worthwhile subject. - Ed

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

This is nothing to do with airgunning, but I'd like to ask Airgun World readers to keep an eye on the elderly folk in their neighbourhood during the winter. Last year, a kindly person was concerned about my mum because mum's dog was continually barking, and it turned out that my mum had fallen and broken her hip. Thanks to the kind neighbour, mum is now but it could have been much

Please look out for the old folk this

CHRIS MOTTRAM

Chris – our readers are more than just airgunners, mate, and your concerns are entirely valid, during

the winter and at all other times. Our elderly people deserve to be looked after and we can certainly play our part in that. - Ed

SIMPLES!

I have a very simple question, and I'd prefer an equally simple answer.

Why is .22 calibre the only proper choice for the airgun hunter?

TOM WARD

It isn't, Tom. I hope that's simple enough for you. – Ed

LIFE'S LESSONS

On the basis that, if you don't ask, you don't get; if I bring my rifle to the British Shooting Show, will you give me some coaching, please? I think I'm doing OK thanks to your recent 'How To Shoot A Springer' series, but a bit of personal coaching would definitely help me

Sorry if I'm out of order but I thought I'd give it a try.

STUART PRENTICE

Stuart – provided there's a range available, I'll give you that coaching, and no, I don't think you're out of order. We've always tried to help anyone who asks for it, so bring your rifle and let's see what we can do for you. That offer applies to all of our readers, by the way. - Ed







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'S GOING

HERE'S WHAT HAD THE AIRGUN WORLD READERS HITTING THE PHONES AND EMAILING THE EDITOR DURING 2014!

As we tread boldly into a brand-new year, we thought it would be interesting to take of the products and subjects

that generated huge feedback from our readers. Amid the superguns and plenty of perennials to help 2015, and it's clear that the core subjects of airgun shooting still deserve our full

As ever, if you think there's a subject we need to explore,

approach, please get in touch and we'll include it in our planning meetings. For now, here's what had the readership reacting last year.

TWO LEGS GOOD ...

Bipods; you either love them, or you really don't. Our readers are distinctly split on the merits, or otherwise, of the bipod, with some telling us they take the vast majority of their hunting shots off them, while others claim that bipods are snag hazards that spoil hand position, balance and looks. We - not me, I've got a dodgy back and I can't do prone shooting – will be studying the Love 'em or hate 'em, there's a lot of pros and cons of shooting off support out there for bipods.

a bipod very soon, so get your own thoughts in and we'll include those, too.



PULLING POWER

Every time Phil Hardman brings us one of his superb decoying articles, we know the enquiries will flood in. Phil's success, while remarkable, really can be

replicated by those who put together the vital ingredients of location, camouflage, patience and groundwork. Phil is also an expert marksman, of course, but the actual shooting is merely the end-game. It's what comes before that attaches a red letter to a day's decoying. There will be more hide-hunting hints

and tips from Phil in 2015, I can promise you that. www. jackpyke.co.uk RRP £6.95.

Decoying shows an interest spike every time Phil Hardman does a feature on it.

OUR DECEMBER SPOT THE DIFFERENCE WINNER BAGGED HIMSELF A FANTASTIC NEW BSA ULTRAMAX CAMMO COMBO!

A new rifle, scope, mounts and case was just the thing to help Northants airgunner, Eric Randolph, into his sporting new year. Eric has been dithering over whether to make the switch to pre-charged pneumatic power, and now his mind has been made up for him by winning our fantastic November prize. Good luck with it, Eric, and let us know how you get on with recoilless, multi-shot hunting.

O. In 'Fully Kitted' on page 19, what is the fill pressure of the BSA Ultramax SE rifle being tested?

A. 232 BAR



FOR ANOTHER GREAT PRIZE!

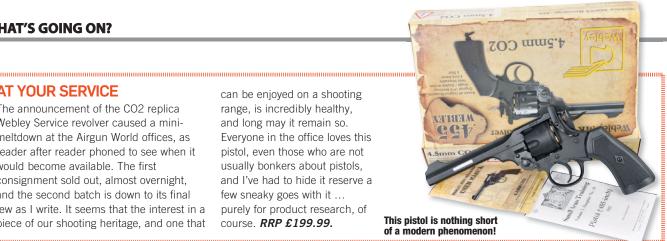




AT YOUR SERVICE

The announcement of the CO2 replica Webley Service revolver caused a minimeltdown at the Airgun World offices, as reader after reader phoned to see when it would become available. The first consignment sold out, almost overnight, and the second batch is down to its final few as I write. It seems that the interest in a piece of our shooting heritage, and one that

can be enjoyed on a shooting range, is incredibly healthy, and long may it remain so. Everyone in the office loves this pistol, even those who are not usually bonkers about pistols, and I've had to hide it reserve a few sneaky goes with it ... purely for product research, of course. RRP £199.99.



MAKING LIGHT WORK OF IT

Lamps of various kinds were massive in 2014, and we're sure that the interest in night hunting will continue through the coming year. There has never been a better time to take up lamping, and once you've discovered the rewards of hunting after dark, you'll understand why it's become a huge industry in itself.

These days, lamps like this one from Deben, are smaller, lighter, more powerful, better made, and more affordable than at any time in our history. Gone are the days of lugging around enormous battery packs that lasted a couple of hours if you were lucky - and good riddance, too. RRP £149.95.



COMPACT OUTLOOK

Binoculars were big in 2014, and by that I mean 'not big at all', but pocket-sized. At last, we're coming to terms with the very real fact that using our scopes as binos really isn't the way to go, and those who distribute optical products are telling us that the rise in popularity of compact binoculars is nothing short of staggering.

This sort of bino can prove useful far beyond the hunting field, of course, and any stroll through our glorious countryside will be enhanced by a pair such as the Hawke ones shown. RRP £49.95. wkeoptics.com



GOING GREEN

While lamping has emerged as a major readership interest, the sub-group of night hunters using 'green' lamps has quietly established itself, too. Hand on heart, this is one airgun hunting trend that has totally passed me by, not least because I'm red-green colour blind. I'm the same about red lamp filters, but, as with the green lampers, plenty of respected hunters swear by these, so who am I to ignore the muted roar of approval? Phill Price is already on the case with this one, and I'll be extremely

interested in what he comes up with. RRP £86.40 www.clulite.cluson.co.uk



Have you gone green, yet? Plenty have, it seems.

LESS IS MORE

Ever since pre-charged pneumatics became popular, our readers have been keen on more portable air supplies. From the feedback we've had in 2014, and beyond, the most popular size small air tank appears to be between 3 and 4 litres, with 300 bar being the preferred maximum charging pressure. The tank shown is a 4-litre version from Hydrotech, it costs around £190, including the rubber boot and charging hose, and the easy-carry jacket is £10.

You can contact the company on: 01455 274841, or email: sales@hydrotech.co.uk

.....



SIMPLY PRACTICAL

'I just want a simple scope that will do the job, stay in one piece, and not cost the earth.' I get a version of this request several times a week, and while some of us fret over low-light performance, lockable turrets and multi-aimpoint reticles, there are thousands out there who want nothing more than a sturdy 3-9 times scope that does what it's told, season after season. Is this an indicator that we place

much emphasis on the allsinging, dancing, and shoot-forthe-moon hardware, when we should be covering basic kit more? You'll let us know the score, I'm certain, and I'm equally sure that we'll change direction to cater for you.

RRP39.95 www. highlandoutdoors.co.uk

Solid, simple and highly affordable. Is this the sort of scope we should be featuring more? Over to you.





Jack Pyke has just about every practice target any airgunner could need.

STILL ON TARGET

Practice targets are vital links in the airgun shooting chain, and they serve three main needs; zeroing, training, and fun. First, we need zeroing targets to get our rifles and sights talking to each other in the way we want.

Without pinpoint zeroing, there really is no point in much else, at least as far as 'serious' shooting goes, so paper targets are

essential. They don't tell fibs,

sorts, any deviation from the

either, and where a glancing clip

on a spinner will register a hit of

bullseye will always be shown up for what it is. For zeroing, and checking that zero, nothing but nothing beats paper targets.

Mind you, a satisfying 'smack' on a spinner is a fine thing, too, and there's such a variety available these days, and at such reasonable cost, that spinners can become genuine training aids for hunters and competition shooters.

Fun shooters and back garden plinkers are also spoilt for choice these days, and so they should be, but we've had enough requests for advice of building a backstop to revisit that one, so look out for it in a future issue. www.jackpyke.co.uk

ADJUSTABLE SPORTERS

I've been banging on for years about hunters having the same gunfit advantages as target shooters, and the release of the Ultimate Sporter amounted to Air Arms putting its money where my mouth is. The runaway success of this rifle has been particulary pleasing to see, although not everyone agreed with me on this little crusade of mine. Some readers insisted that sporters must never be lumbered with target-style paraphernalia under any circumstances, and

The Ultimate Sporter shows what hunters can do with target-standard control.

/HAT'S GOING ON?

on one or two occasions the debate became quite heated. My view remains the same: proper gunfit, and more importantly the control it provides, is a key component of consistent accuracy, and hunters need that more than any other group of shooters. Guns that fit help us hit what we aim at, and rifles like the Ultimate Sporter definitely make us more efficient at cleanly despatching our quarry. I hope to see more of this type of sporter in the New Year.

RRP £899 www.air-arms.co.uk



VILLAGE PEOPLE

In addition to the wealth of guns, gear and shooting-related stuff, a new feature will be incorporated to this year's CLA Game Fair at Harewood House, near Leeds. The Great British Village is the first new themed area to be introduced to the CLA Game Fair for several years and is billed as the Celebration of the Great British Countryside.

It has been created to showcase the uniqueness, quality and variety of the Great British way of life and will include food and drink exhibitors, rural crafts, cultural traditions, entertainment, country pursuits, fashion and more.

Tony Wall, Director of the CLA Game Fair, said: "I am really excited about this new area and very much hope it will inspire visitors to incorporate British products and traditions into their everyday lives."

The CLA Game Fair 2015, runs from Friday 31 July until Sunday 2 August. For more details and advance ticket sales, visit www. gamefair.co.uk.

SHOW UP AT STONELEIGH

Now that Christmas is over you might think there is nothing left to look forward to, but you'd be wrong. The Great British Shooting Show, now in its seventh year, will be the next big event for us shooters.

This year's shooting extravaganza will be bigger and better than ever. The Airgun City section will showcase new air rifles, pistols, clothing and all the accessories for the airgun enthusiast.

There will be manufacturers' ranges where you can try before you buy and the ATEO will be

Trying before buying at the British Shooting Show.

there with a coaching line for youngsters. On top of this you cat try your hand at 10-metre Olympic Match Shooting and action pistol shooting. Also keep an eye out for special show only offers which could save you loads of money.

The show will be held at Stoneleigh Park International Centre near Kenilwoth Warwickshire, CV8 2LG and will be held over three days on the 13th, 14th and 15th February 2015. Order your tickets in advance to save money. For more information visit: www.shootingshow.co.uk







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for further details and to find your local dealer







This stunning new rifle from Brocock has a new a synthetic green stock making it not only weatherproof, but camouflaged as well. The air reservoir is also finished in green to help it blend into its hunting environment. With Brocock's six-shot magazine and renowned accuracy, this is a true sporter. The G6 rifle also comes with a 3-9 x 40 MTC Genesis scope and a silencer - and you can win this fantastic combo for just £1.50!

WO WAYS TO WINI THE NEW BROCOCK CONTOUR G6 AND SCOPE Answer by text or spot-the-difference by post

To enter, text AW G6 followed by your answer (eg. C) your NAME and EMAIL ADDRESS to 80058. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate.

In 'Get Your Fill' on page 59, what is the name of the compressor?

A. Omega GX3

B. Alpha GX3

C. Omega GX4

Spot the six differences between the photos below. Entry costs just £1.50 per go – cheques and postal orders made payable to 'Airgun World' – and you can enter as many times as you like by photocopying the entry form. As a bonus; for every five postal entries you submit, you get one free - i.e six entries for just £7.50!



ENTRY FORM

Airgun World, Evolution House, 2-6 Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, Berks RG40 2EG

..... Davtime Tel ...

Prize to be sent to: (Name and address of your local gunshop)



Closing date: 24th FEBRUARY 2015 Tick if you have a subscription to Airgun World

What would you like to see in Airgun World?

Simply write your suggestions below, or list your comments on a seperate sheet of paper, and send it with your competition entry.

The winner of the text section and the winner of the spot-the-difference section will go into a draw to decide the overall winner. There are six differences between the two photos. Simply draw a circle around them as you spot them, then send in your completed entry form

The winner will be published in the APRIL issue. Competition closes at midnight on 24th FEBRUARY 2015 Usual terms and conditions apply - visit http://www.airgunshooting.co.uk/home/terms_and_conditions. Customer services helpline 020 76335020.

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We get many, many requests from our readers to help them choose new guns. That's part of what we're here for and we always try to help. We normally don't publicise such requests but I've changed that this month because this one coincided with the arrival of a rifle that seems to perfectly fit the bill. Mason Roberts' email sets the scene:

'Dear Terry,

I hope you can help me choose a new rifle, because I'm at my wits' end right now. I need something that has a variety of features, and I just haven't been able to pin down

a single rifle that ticks all the boxes. If I'm being to picky, perhaps you can tell me and I'll find something that 'makes do'. I'd much rather find exactly what I need, though, even if I have to apply a bit of customisation to it. Here's what I need, and again, if there's nothing out there, please let me know and at least I can stop driving myself mad.

I need a pre-charged pneumatic rifle that is very light and compact, because I could be

climbing about inside barns and outbuildings with it. Stability on aim won't be a problem because I'll be resting it for most shots.

- It must be multi-shot and easy to reload.
- Ambidextrous would be great, because my son is left-handed and I'd like to use it as a 'trainer'
- It absolutely must have a good, two-stage trigger. I'm not a 'trigger tart' but I won't have sub-standard triggers. If having the trigger

professionally fettled is required, I'm up for that.

Easy fill, easy fit.

I need a totally practical, simple, reliable vermin despatch tool,

> rather than anything fancy, so highly figured oiled walnut isn't on

the cards, here. In fact, a synthetic stock would be the way to go, I think.

- I'm not unduly bothered about high shot-count, because I have a 3-litre air tank and that can come with me. Around 20-30 shots per charge would be plenty.
- Finally, this rifle would need to be fully capable of taking rabbits at 35 yards, when I feel the need just to grab a sporter and go wandering around my permission. Oh, and really finally; this rifle has to be realistically priced! If I had the money I'd have something made, but I don't. So, am I looking for something that doesn't exist?

Thanks in advance for your help, Terry, and I'll see you at the British Shooting Show.'

Quite a list of requirements, isn't it? Yet, I really think the very thing may be sitting on my lap as I write. It definitely seems to be exactly what Mason is looking for, so let's see what you, and Mason, think about it.





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BROCOCK REBORN

Before we get to the nuts, bolts and tubes of this month's test rifle, let's establish the new foundation of the company that made it. Founded in 1989, Brocock has been recently acquired by the Dianna group, that also owns Daystate. Both companies are now housed in new, purpose-built headquarters in Staffordshire, where resources can be pooled, and identities kept strictly separate. I've discussed Brocock's new direction with those in charge of it, and the basic mission statement is one of consolidating the virtues of the Brocock range, while eliminating any vices flagged up by the company's customers and consultants. That's an over-simplified version, and there's a whole range of ventures planned for 2015, but the core of where Brocock is going remains one of 'independence with greater resource'. In other words, the intention is that Brocock will be better at what it does best

Brocock's consultation process is already underway, and feedback is currently arriving at their new headquarters in an encouragingly frequent stream. All constructive comment is invited, and should you have anything to contribute, please do so via Brocock Ltd, Unit 3, Raleigh Hall

Brocock Ltd, Unit 3, Raleigh Hall Industrial Estate, Eccleshall, Staffordshire. ST21 GJL. Phone:0844 800 9905, or email: sales@brocock.co.uk

That's enough of the background detail; let's bring the test rifle into the spotlight, shall we?

Could this be our reader's dream rifle?

with a

OVERVIEW

The Brocock Contour G6 is the latest version of the company's S6 model, and it comes with a box-ticking potential that should have Mason sitting up and taking notice. This is the first Brocock I've tested since the Dianna acquisition, and it's my first chance to see what effect the new regime has had on the performance of a rifle I know fairly well.

First impressions are favourable,

noticeable uplift in smoothness of function basically, the bolt-action feels a bit slicker - but even that could be more in my mind than a mechanical fact, so I'll withhold my verdict until I've shot this rifle for a couple of months. One thing I can confirm, here and now, is that the G6's stock is the best example ever fitted to this model. It has a perfectly applied, 'rubberised' coating over a hardwood blank, and it's incredibly tough. I know it's tough because I watched the test rifle scrape itself down a concrete post, after I'd stupidly propped it

there for a rustic photo.
The photo was rubbish,

but a quick brush down with my hand revealed not a blemish on the Brocock's rubberwork, and that could definitely come in handy during a life in the hunting field, especially if Mason intends to clatter around in barns and such.

MECHANICS AND OUTPUT

At the heart of the G6 – presumably 'G' stands for 'Green' – is the Brocock bolt-action, 6-shot, removable rotary magazine, and there are two of these mags' supplied with each





rifle, plus a silencer adaptor. The magazines are small, but not fiddly, and at less than £25 each, it's worth adding another couple to see you through all but those red-letter days in the field.

Each 200 bar charge of the G6's 25mm diameter air reservoir yields 35, full-power shots in .22 and 30 in .177. In the case of the test rifle, 'full-power' meant 11.2 ft.lbs., and I decided to 'tweak'the charging pressure until I found the 'best' 30 shots. I was going for a pressure that gave me peak performance and best consistency from the second shot into each charge, with the first shot being a check-zero one. This turned out to be a complete waste of time, because the best pressure was, indeed, the recommended 200 bar, but I'm sure this won't always be the case. Never, ever, go above the recommended charge pressure, but feel free to test any non-

regulated PCPs with slightly lower pressures, because it can make a real difference. Not this time, though.

ACCURACY REPORT

First, if ever a rifle was designed for anything but bench rest shooting, it's this one. The Brocock G6 is all about fast handling, extreme pointability and ease of portage, not being plonked on a bench, propped up with sandbags, and clinically tested. However, needs must and I have to produce stats for every rifle, so to the static rest I went and did the stationary deed.

diameter. I shot a few groups with the optional silencer an enclosed shooting position is that it tends to concentrate noise, so I re-fitted the optional silencer and peace broke out once more. For the record, there was no discernable difference in group size with the silencer off, although I thought I detected a hint of muzzle-flip. No one is going to shoot this rifle without a silencer, anyway, so the point could be moot, although silencer choice should be something to think about, seeing that it may affect muzzle movement. I'll investigate more on this for part two of my

detached, but one disadvantage of

test next month.

TECH SPEC

Model: Contour G6

Manufacturer: Brocock Country of origin: UK/Italy

Price: £549

Type: Pre-charged, multi-shot hunting

Calibre: .177. .22

Cocking: Bolt-action

Loading: Via removable rotary, 6-shot

magazine

Trigger: 2-stage, adjustable unit

Stock type: Ambidextrous, rubberised,

skeleton sporter

Weight: 2 kg (4.6lbs) unscoped

Length:788mm (31ins)

Barrel: 432mm (17 ins)

Fill pressure: 200 bar

Shots per charge: 35-plus in .22,

30-plus in .177

Average energy: 11.2 ft.lbs.

Best group at 25 yards: 15 mm

diameter

Favoured pellet of test rifle: Air Arms

Options: FAC-rated actions

Contact: Brocock 0844 800 9905

RRP £549.00

shifted two benches to my right and hammered a 25mm spinner at 40 yards, becoming more confident as I settled with the

Brocock's lightly-set trigger.

INITIAL VERDICT

Trigger performance is excellent, as any PCP's should be, so that's another tick on Mason's wish list sorted, and I think I've found something he could improve with a bit of customisation, too. I don't like that flat, featureless butt pad, and as ever, an adjustable one would do a far better job, so Mason could invest a little in this area.

An arms' length appraisal shows a well-made, practical, ambidextrous, multi-shot PCP sporter that carries the unique appeal upon which Brocock built a significant fan base. The G6 is also a tough, handy, and precise hunter that punches well above its weight and asking price. Mason, vou could have found your next rifle, mate. Check out next month's issue for confirmation.



'The Brocock G6 is all about fast handling, pointability and ease of portage'

I'm not a great fan of the butt pad and I'd replace it with an adjustable one.

The winter wind was being tedious, but our club at Bisley enjoys a nicely sheltered, 25-yard range, inside which I was able to extract some useful data. Using .22 Air Arms Diabolo Field pellets straight from the tin, between me and the Brocock's Lothar Walther barrel, we kept my groups tidy and occasionally remarkable, with the very best being just 15mm in



CONSISTENCY

With its comparatively small air reservoir, I expected the shot-toshot consistency of the G6 to be on the 'erratic' side of steady, but after three, 30-shot strings, I was pleasantly surprised to see an overall variation of 18 f.p.s., and just 14 f.p.s. over the first 20 shots. Mason's wish list included the capability of dropping rabbits at 35 yards, and I nailed that one within the first hour of testing. During a near-windless Iull, I





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7	Pembrokeshire	01437 764493
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	Leicester	0116 279 6001
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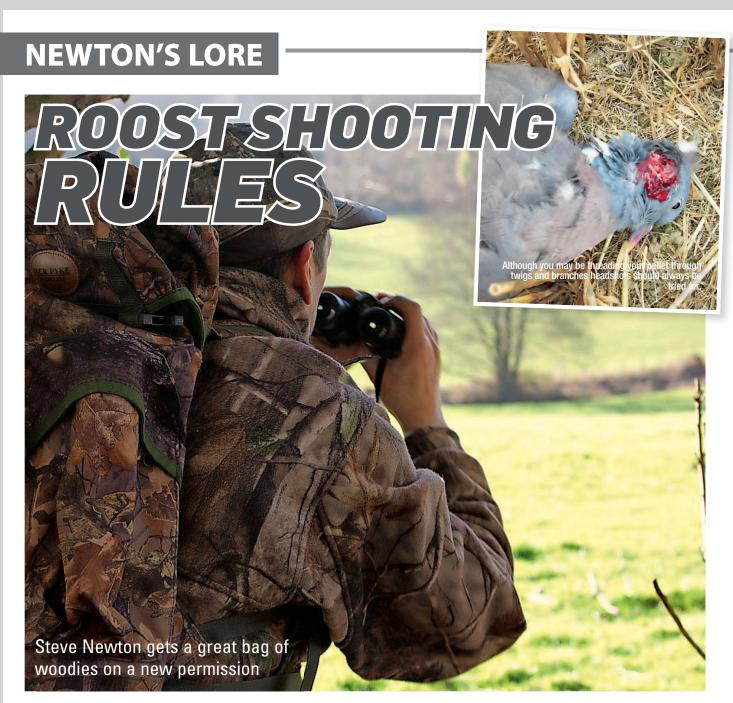
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stop the vehicle at the entrance to the young wheat field and study the long strip of woodland on the far side intently through the binoculars; it's 3.30pm in late December and will soon be dusk. Presently, as expected, a black dot appears on the horizon and quickly materialises into a woodpigeon. It's moving fast and knows exactly where it's going as it folds its wings and drops confidently into the tree line. Within minutes, six more dots appear from the opposite direction and as they approach they split and also drop into the tree line, each choosing s different area to land. Over the course of the next 30 minutes or so at least another 100 pigeons appear from different directions and do exactly the same thing and then, suddenly, it's too dark to see, but by then I had seen enough to confirm that although there were not any discernable flight lines as they were coming from all directions, this strip of woodland attracts and holds roosting woodles.

really. The landowner had asked me to take a look at the rabbit problem for him, but I had not yet visited this wood in person. The problem was, although the wood is only about 150 yards wide it must be over half a mile long and I needed to get in there to find the

and strip the remaining leaves from the trees, I wanted to use a rifle not a shotgun. When a pigeon comes into roost it will usually land on an outer branch before dropping into a more secure and warmer spot, such as ivy or deeper into the trunk of the tree.

"Over the course of the next 30 minutes or so at least another 100 pigeons appear from different directions"

NEW PERMISSION

Although I had a half dozen freshly shot rabbits in the back of the little Rav 4, this was a new permission and today was my first excursion here so was nothing more than a reconnaissance visit

exact trees the woodies were favouring, so another visit was definitely on the cards.

Over the next two days we had gale force winds and although those conditions would drive the woodies home earlier in the day This is when to take them and I couldn't see a point in making life more difficult for myself by taking birds waving madly about in the wind. However, a few days later things had calmed down a bit so 2pm found me entering the wood

with my Air Wolf slung over my shoulder and a keen eye looking for suitable places to set up an ambush for the returning woodies. When roost shooting it's important to find the exact trees the birds are using if you want the best chance of success. A dead giveaway to finding these trees is to look for droppings and loosely moulted feathers lying scattered on the ground around the base, and with practice you will learn to spot these places instantly.

RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

This is important because it's very frustrating to hear birds coming in all around you while you are sitting in the wrong place and are getting no shooting at all. On my shoot I don't allow roost shooting of any kind until January and the end of the shooting season because I don't want any disturbance to pheasants coming home to roost, but there is little game on this land and so no harm could be done by shooting at this time. Within 20

minutes, or so, I had located a promising-looking area consisting of three well-used roosting spots, all well within range of my ambushing point. When it comes to building hides for roost shooting I really don't bother with anything too elaborate. My advice would be to build the best hide

you can with the available materials. In fact, standing close to the trunk of a tree

hunkering down in a convenient bush will often suffice if that's all the cover available to you. A good

background, however, is very important and good cammo helps a lot. It's vital to cover your hands

and face, these will be spotted by the woodies from miles away, but above all, for God's sake, make sure you remain still because movement will be detected instantly. It never ceases to amaze me when I see people trying to roost shoot, walking up and down

the wood whenever

they hear a bird

and completely

counter-

position.

Pigeons tend to land on the outer branches of the tree before dropping into a more secluded and warmer

come in that's not over their

position.

It's totally pointless

productive.
These same people are often heard whining about the lack of shooting at the end of the flight.
Have patience; if you have done

your homework well and they cannot detect any changes to the area, then they will have no reason not to come in, just like they do every evening.

BASIC COVER

On this occasion I was leaning against a tree with a dense bush at my back as I settled down to wait. I knew I was early, but within minutes a lone woodie came sailing in to land in a tree some 60 yards to the right of me. It was too far for a shot, of course, but was a good decoy and a sign to other pigeons that all was well on the roost so I let it be. A couple of minutes later I shifted into a more comfortable position and a pigeon clattered out of the branches above my head. I had no idea how long it had been there but it must have slipped in quietly and unseen from behind. I cursed my sloppiness, but became more vigilant from then on and it wasn't long before a clap of wings heralded the arrival of a lone bird. The wind was blowing directly into 👋



my face which meant the bird had its back to me as it started to land, and this meant I could shoulder the rifle unseen and was already looking through the scope as it touched down.

As it stretched its neck to survey its surroundings, I centred the crosshair on its head and gently squeezed the trigger. The sound of the pellet hitting its mark drifted back to me and the hapless woodie dropped from the branch like a stone, without so much as a wing flap, and lay motionless

see birds coming in further down the wood, but it was at least another ten minutes before a group of half a dozen came in and took up positions in a tree to my right. This was difficult, because I now had six pairs of suspicious eyes scanning the terrain looking for danger, so my movements had to be very careful and slow, but these birds had never been shot on this roost before, so thankfully they were fairly relaxed and allowed me to take one of their number before clattering off.

"By the time I packed up I had 18 plump woodies in my rucksack!"

below the branch. Although I could easily see it, I immediately went to pick him up and returned to my hide.

I would advise that when not using a dog (as on this occasion) it's much better to pick your birds up straight away. It's very easy to have birds dropped all around you, but when the light goes, although you are absolutely sure where they are, they can be almost impossible to find.

BETTER VIEW

winds had removed the last of the leaves from the trees and I could

Again, I retrieved my bird and continued to wait, and then within minutes the flight began in earnest with birds arriving from all directions and landing in the trees around me

For the next 20 minutes, or so, I was getting a shot every few minutes. When the inevitable lull came I had nine more birds to pick up and

continued to shoot the odd one until nearly dusk, when it became impossible

through twigs and branches I could no longer see.

By the time I packed up I had 18 plump woodies in my rucksack, although I did miss several shots. I could have shot many more had I been using a shotgun, but by using my air rifle I didn't disturb any of the other roosting areas in the wood so I can return again and again, just hitting different areas in the strip until spring.

Give roost shooting a go if you get the chance. You don't need

specialist kit

and the real onus is on learning and using the kind of skills that won't cost you a penny, but most certainly will increase your success as a hunter.

Roost shooting could be the new area of our sport you're looking for. Just remember these golden rules: Reconnaissance, silence, good cammo, face and hand cover, a good background to your hide and above all lack of movement are your key to success.

Also, if your permission holds game, make sure you check with the keeper before roost shooting; he may not want you wandering around in his woods at dusk.

Don't be too late leaving the wood make sure you pick up



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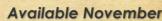
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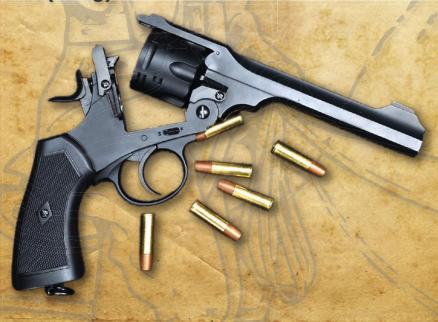


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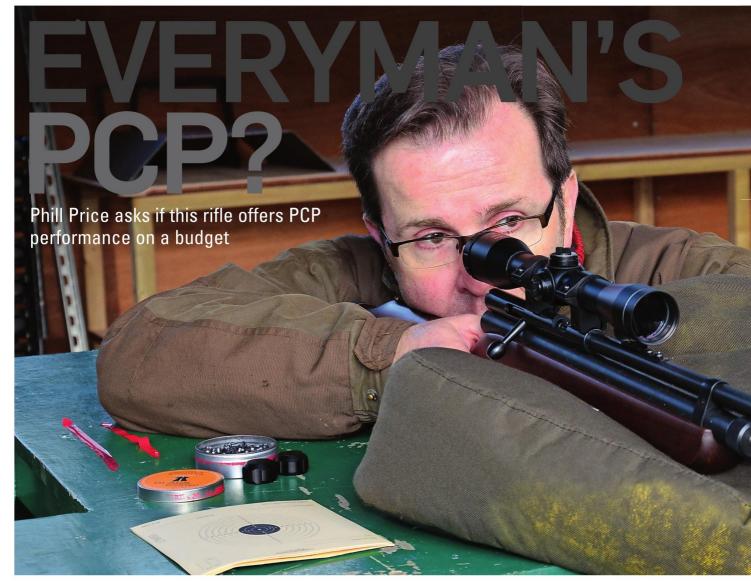
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few readers have taken my Astruggle with spring-piston rifle accuracy to describe me as a snob. They've called me spoiled and lazy. In fact, they've called me a lot worse than that, but those words aren't for publishing, and because of this I feel the need to stand up for myself. You see, for me the only airgun worth having is an accurate airgun for one important reason, and that's because I'm a hunter. When I pull the trigger, my pellet is heading for a living, breathing creature and I have a responsibility to it. If I have a good enough reason to take its life, then I must do it quickly and cleanly, and for this reason I'll always shoot the rifle that I'm most accurate with.

Now, please note I didn't say the most accurate rifle, I said the rifle I'm most accurate with. These are not the same things. I'm always more accurate with a recoilless rifle: I know this for a fact, and this is where the confusion comes in. People assume that I criticise springers because they're cheap, but that's not true. I criticise them because I can't shoot them as well as I can shoot a recoilless rifle. The price is irrelevant.

CHEAP PERFORMANCE?

This got me thinking. What is the cheapest way to get recoilless accuracy? Pre-charged pneumatics are often expensive, although Walther and Gamo have recently introduced multi-shot sporters around the £400 mark, but you still need to budget for a dive bottle or pump to fill them, so the working package will be nearer £600. Not exactly pocket change.

At my gun club, Bisley, lots of the more 'mature' members rant on about the SMK XS78. It is a simple, Chinese made, Co2 rifle that performs well above its price range. There are variations of this airgun, including the TH78D, which has a thumbhole stock and the pure target version, the QB78 Target. All these rifles have a

low compared to the ultra-high pressures that PCPs use, so there's less chance of the skilled home tuner causing a dangerous situation.

SIMPLEZ

At its heart the solid construction is rigid and simple, a great recipe for accuracy, and being Co2, it's

"At its heart the solid construction is rigid and simple, a great recipe for accuracy"

robust bolt action, which is basic but responds well to a bit of customisation and some of the members lavish all sorts of modifications on this basic rifle. Because the gun is Co2-powered, the internal pressures are relatively

recoilless. I just had to try one.

The look is plain, it has to be said, but the finish is better then I'd imagined. The woodwork is again plain, being ambidextrous with no chequering or stippling for grip. However, I found I quickly







"expecting the sight picture to be disturbed, but I saw hardly a quiver as the muzzle barked"

forgot this when I started shooting. The trigger is a revelation for a $\pounds 110$ gun. It's reasonably light and crisp straight from the box, telling me that a skilled gunsmith could improve on that in minutes; but



the thing that really got me was the firing cycle. Using my best focus, I settled the crosshair on the target and released the shot, expecting the sight picture to be disturbed, but I saw hardly a quiver as the muzzle barked. Did I mention it had no silencer?

This was a revelation. I saw the pellet make a hole in the target card. Reloading and squeezing off a second shot I saw this pellet land beside the first at 20 yards. Oh boy! This thing's fun! The club's range has spinners and knock-down, knock-up targets all the way out to 55 yards and I was in for the afternoon. Once I'd

worked out the holdover, I was confidently hitting 40mm discs at 40 yards, which is remarkable for a cheap plinker shooting pointed pellets. Then the Co2 pressure dropped and it was time to reload, or should I say re-gas? This was a little unclear for me. The end cap of the reservoir was still tight so I cycled and blank fired the action until the small amount of gas left was eliminated and the end cap unscrewed with just finger pressure. I dropped in two more 12 gramme capsules and was back up to speed.

Every Co2-powered gun is heavily affected by temperature changes and that's the price you pay for using this power source, but as a plinker I don't think it need be a worry.

I have to confess that I pre-judged this rifle. I didn't

believe that something so cheap and simple could work so well. It truly is the poor man's precharged pneumatic, giving many of the benefits of far more expensive rifles in a light, handy and cheap package that could be just what many people need.

It's such a simple, clean design.

SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer SMK

Web www.sportsmk.co.uk

Tel 01206 795333

Model XS78

Type Bolt action, single shot

Power source 2 x 12 gram Co2

Length 100.5cm

Weight 2.4kg

RRP £109.00





FROM DUSK'TIL

The editor finds himself working the night shift, thanks to the latest technology from Scott Country

've long given up on the 'old dog new tricks' nonsense; especially the bit about not being able to teach the latter to the former. This particular old dog learns more new tricks and techniques as each year passes, and I'm delighted to do so, but, hand on heart, I found myself slightly bewildered by the brand-new ATN X-Sight. So much so, that I immediately booked it in for a full test in next month's issue, which would give me a few weeks to explore thoroughly what it can do. Read this initial appraisal, and I think you'll see why this remarkable sight, and I, deserve more time.

So much to explore.



THE ATN X-SIGHT -**REVEALED**

What we have here is a batterypowered, digital telescopic sight that runs HD optics and full night vision capability. This enables the X-Sight user to shoot right around the clock. Those are the very basics, mind. To get at the core an Obsidian one, apparently, of this remarkable sight - we need to scroll through the line-up of features. Here we go.

POWER UP

Before we go anywhere, the X-Sight will need power, and that means installing four AA batteries. Not just any batteries, though; as I found out when it devoured a quartet of standard Duracells in

WN DUSK!



around an hour. This sight needs NiMH cells, and Scott Country sent me a high-quality set, complete with charging unit. These are rated for over four hours' worth of continual use, so with a spare set in my pocket, I would be ready for anything. Now for a walk-through of those features.

Day/Night Display: The X-Sight's menu, accessed through its direction arrows on top of the unit, runs the whole show, and allows you to access its incredible array of modes and features. The first of these you'll get sorted, is setting it on Day or Night mode. If 'Night' is your mode of choice, then choose between a mono or green NV display.

Reticle Choice: The unit offers three reticle types in either red, green or black.

Light Amplification: Go for 'Medium' for normal use with an infra-red illuminator. There's an illuminator supplied with the unit, but I much prefer the Nite Tek T38 supplied by Scott Country. You then adjust the screen brightness to suit your preference and the conditions and you're ready to mount the X-Sight on your rifle.

WEAVER SYSTEM

This sight comes with a Weaver/ Picatinny mount as standard, so if your rifle has the standard

www.airgunshooting.co.uk

11mm dovetail, you're going to need an adaptor. Sportsmatch and Hawke have the very items, and it takes mere minutes to get the X-Sight fixed and ready for electronic zeroing.

ZERO HOUR

Zeroing the X-Sight is just like doing so with a scope ... only different. The 'left-right-up-down' shifts are controlled by the rubberised arrow buttons and even I found it easy to match pellet holes with crosshair, aided by the sight's 5-18 x optical zoom, which is also controlled by the arrows. I was pleased to note that all settings are retained, and once you've chosen your preferences, you simply switch on the unit and, once you've selected 'Day' or Night' mode, you're ready to shoot.

IMAGE CAPTURE

Now things become headshakingly impressive. The ATN X-Sight allows video filming, and stills photography, with sound, in day and night modes. Within the stills capture mode, there's a timer and a 'number of

stills capture mode, there's a timer and a 'number of shots' facility, plus a

'delay' to set the time between images taken. Add geotagging, preview and delete of phots/video content, and the storage capability provided by the Micro SD card, and you can see that I've got plenty to explore here.

WIFI

Yes, the X-Sight has WIFI, which means it can, through a free App, connect wirelessly to a smartphone or tablet and provide a remote screen facility, showing your hunting partner what you're seeing

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Having set up the X-Sight and used it in the hunting field, I am beginning to get a handle on the reason for the sheer level of interest this device is generating. Yes, it's not 'just' a scope you can flick into NV mode when the fancy takes you, and it's still a highly specialised instrument, but the more I explore it, the more I can see dedicated hunters making it part of their armoury. At 2.7lbs, without an IR illuminator, it's no featherweight, but as a dusk through to dawn hunting sight, I've never used anything like it. I have so much more 'research' to do with this X-Sight, and few products have prompted me to get out there and put in the hours. One thing's for sure; I'll be able to work round the clock on this one. New tricks - here I

ATN X-SIGHT SPECIFICATION

- •Generation: Smart HD Optics
- •Magnification: 5-18x
- •Eye relief: 67 mm
- Built-in IR: Detachable mount fitting provided for attaching your own IR device.
- •Sensor: HD 1080p ATN L130 Sensor
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- •Video Out: 1080p at 30fps & 720 at 60fps
- Remote View Finder: Via IOS or Android app
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AIR

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12.5-50x56 FIELD TARGET II

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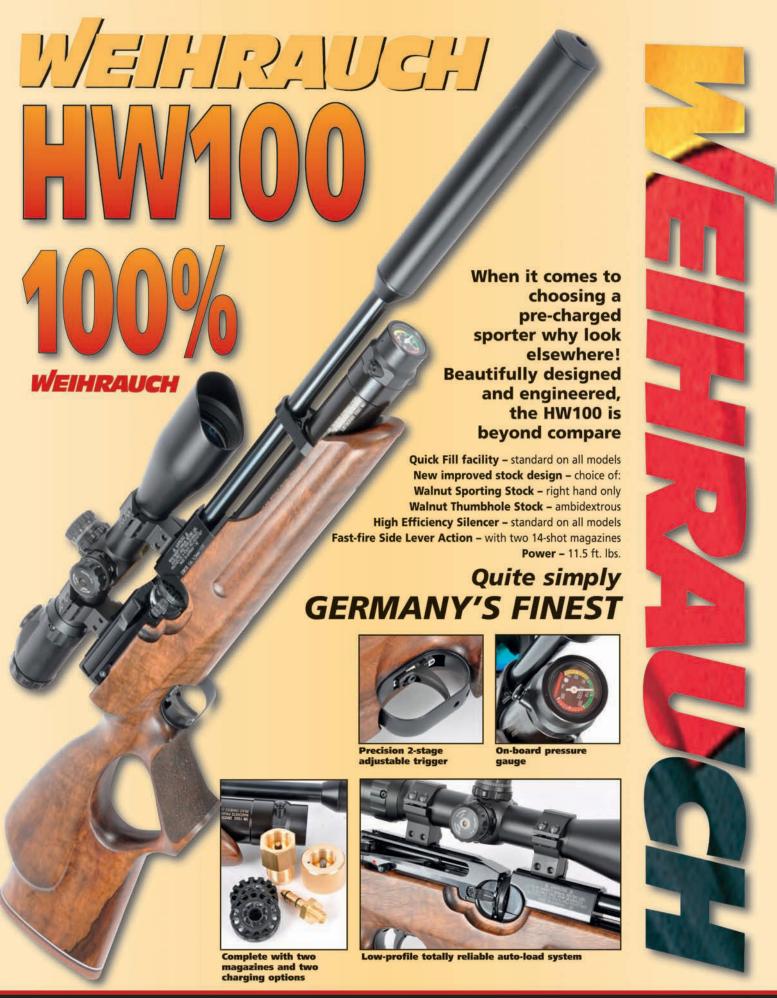
shooters all around the world. The new Field Target II found its place amongst the worlds leading sports scope features highest accuracy in distance measurement riflescopes. The magnetic clip-on wheel, the precisely under all environmental conditions from 9 m up to scope an extraordinary reliable match winner. Tested by targeting.

Field Target Scopes of Schmidt & Bender are developed experienced shooters and proven by first places in in close cooperation with world leading field target national competitions, this newly designed scope already engraved parallax cap, the integrated level and the infinity. Deviations of less than 2 % within temperature double turn elevation turret with visible indicator make ranges from below 0 °C up to 40 °C at measurements of this scope additionally perfectly suitable for other sports targets in distances of around 50 m make this Field Target applications such as benchrest-shooting and long range



For more information about the 12.5-50x56 Field Target II scope and all other Schmidt & Bender products visit: www.schmidt-bender.com







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Scopes and mounts shown are at extra cost

www.hullcartridge.co.uk

Model	Calibre	Barrel length	Weight
HW100KT QF	.177 / .22	310mm	3.4kg
HW100T QF	.177 / .22	410mm	3.8kg
HW100KS QF	.177 / .22	310mm	3.4kg
HW100S QF	.177 / .22	410mm	3.8kg

A FIRST FOR WEBLEY!

John Milewski examines an extremely special debut from yesteryear

hen the Webley Mark I air pistol was introduced in 1924, it was an immediate success with buyers. Simply put, the pistol was of a build quality equal to the firm's famous firearms, an attribute which became apparent as soon as the Webley was handled. Air pistols were available prior to the Webley's introduction but in fairly small numbers and there was certainly a gap in the market for a quality, mass-produced pistol. Webley were able to offer their Mark I at a cost low enough to be relatively affordable but by no means 'cheap' in terms of quality.

CONTEMPORARY VIEWS

A review of the Mark I was published in the 14 October 1924 issue of Country Life, where contemporary expert Max Baker explained, 'No better means exists than the Webley air pistol for gaining skill in the use of the officer's weapon.' This gives us a clue to the pistol's intended market. There were no formal air pistol competition leagues in 1924 and affluent youngsters and their parents were seen as potential users of the Webley air pistol. Many of these youngsters were destined to join the armed forces and experience in pistol shooting was seen as an advantage for

MARK I.

Price ... 30.

Eatra interchangeable Barrel 10.

WEIGHT 25ce. LENGTH OVERALL 81 ins.

The "Webley" Air Patols are designed on scientific lines. machined on the interchangeable system and guaranteed by Webley's who are manufacturers of high repair.

Estracodiumy accuracy can be obtained with these pixtols and they will appeal to all classes of layers both for individual practice and for friendly rivaly in competitions.

Webley No. 1 Oil should be used on pixton washers. Price 6d.

"WEBLEY" SPECIAL PELLETS ARE STRONGLY RE

All cammunications should be sufficient to the Read Office.

All cammunications should be sufficient to the Read Office.

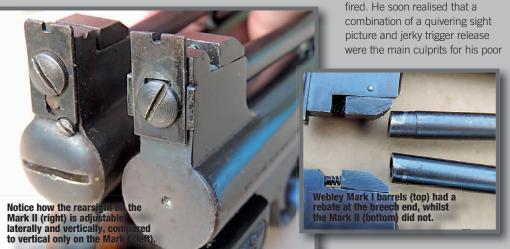
when service revolvers took the place of air pistols.

Webley also made a point of suggesting their air pistol was suitable as a training arm and the first handbooks for the Mark I even contained illustrations of the The Webley Mark I air pistol was accurate enough for Webley to contemplate making a de-luxe target version. This one made a good account of itself at a modern Pistol HFT shoot and attained 2nd place!

air pistol in use aboard battleships. By his own admission, Mr Baker was no pistol expert and his initial efforts resulted in wild shots being fired. He soon realised that a combination of a quivering sight picture and jerky trigger release were the main culprits for his poor

performance. After a little practice, Mr Baker proved the pistol's worth as a trainer by hitting a condensed milk tin with monotonous frequency at 10 yards. Presently he was able to achieve 10-shot, 2-inch groups at the same distance.

Webley soon grasped that their Mark I was capable of grouping consistently enough for some owners to realise that their personal shooting style resulted in shots landing to the left or right of the point of aim. The rearsight was only adjustable for elevation and this minor limitation, together with the Mark I's phenomenal success, was enough to encourage Webley to introduce a de-luxe model in 1925.



This new model was named the 'Webley Air Pistol Mark II (Target Model)' and incorporated a rearsight, which was adjustable laterally as well as vertically. Rather than the plain walnut used on the Mark I, grips were made from the same vulcanite material that was used on the company's firearms. They also featured an attractive monogram of the company's initials at the top of each grip or 'stock side' as Webley called them.

Metal piston rings replaced leather washers in an attempt to increase velocity and these worked on the same principle as an

internal combustion engine.

1st Series Mark II showing early markings. Note no international patents present. Photo courtesy of Andrew Orr Holt's Auctioneers.

through controlled dieseling.

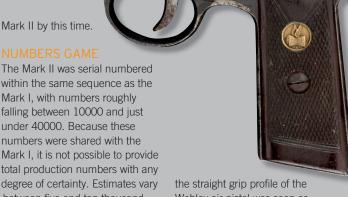
The March 1925 issue of The Sporting Goods Review reported that Webley had commenced work on a Mark II version of their air pistol for match shooting, and the June 1925 issue carried the first known advert for the new pistol (John Atkins - Air Gunner August 1993). The pistol was made in three distinct variants, which I intend to describe in detail next month and was made until 1930.

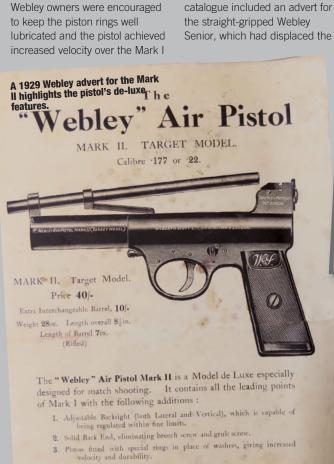
The June 1930 A.G. Parker

SCOTT Ltd.

The Mark II was serial numbered within the same sequence as the Mark I, with numbers roughly falling between 10000 and just under 40000. Because these numbers were shared with the Mark I, it is not possible to provide total production numbers with any degree of certainty. Estimates vary between five and ten thousand but these are at best guesses and true volumes are probably somewhere between these two numbers

the straight grip profile of the Webley air pistol was seen as resembling a semi-automatic firearm of the period and this classic design remains attractive to collectors who also shoot. Not only





"this classic design remains attractive

to collectors who also shoot"



Webley claimed their new Mark Il air pistol was suitable for match shooting and, using a two-handed grip, I was able to achieve 5-shot groups of just over an inch at 6 yards with .22 FTT pellets. I found the trigger pull slightly heavy but resisted the temptation to adjust it in order to maintain the existing safe pull. Like Max Baker had done some 90 years previously, I was able to hit a tin can with monotonous regularity when I extended the distance to 10 yards and herewith for me, lay the attraction of this particular collectable.

When new during the 1920s,

do you have a desirable collectors' item but also one which is capable of superior accuracy to some pistols on the market today. Just don't forget to wipe over the pistol with an oily rag before you put it away!

Sources and references Country Life - 14 October 1924 The Sporting Goods Review March and June 1925 Webley Air Pistols brochures - undated from c.1927 and 1929 A.G. Parker catalogue June 1930 Airgun Collection by John Atkins -Airgunner August 1993 Andrew Orr - Holts Auctioneers

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've been doing these follow-up tests for quite a while now, and, as these things tend to do, they've evolved from the original concept. I began doing them for the basic reason that a month, minus the time it takes to get each issue of Airgun World through production, simply isn't enough time really to explore the capabilities and potential of a new air rifle. I still believe, in most cases, that this is true and that the extra test sessions are entirely justified, but as I compare my initial results with the ones I'm getting from the follow-up tests, I'm not seeing much in the way of contrast. There's a little 'settling down' of power and consistency, which is no big news, and now and again I see something about a rifle either grow on me or annoy me, but the fact is there's nothing spectacular in terms of mechanical change. The largest shift is clear and decisive, though, and it relates to the change in my ability to make the most of each rifle's features,

and thereby extract the best from it. There's no doubt about is, time and experience has no substitute when it comes to realising the full potential of our hardware.

NEW DIRECTION

Thus, this retrospective fact-

finding mission of mine has brought a new direction to the follow-up tests. From now on, while still reporting any significant alterations in mechanical performance, I'll be doing my best to pass on what the extended testing has taught me about the best way to shoot these rifles. I believe this will provide a far better service to our readers, and not just those who own the test subject, either. What works for one model will often do so for others.

and I'm confident that there will

be plenty of ideas worth trying in

the issues to come. That's the new deal, then, and the first rifle at the centre of it is the Hatsan AT44 TX 1022, so let's see how to make the most of one.

ROUND UP

As reported last month, the AT44

in an adjustable, synthetic, ambidextrous stock, that offers tremendous value for money for it's £410 price tag. This rifle's trigger is truly excellent, its autoload system can't be double-loaded, the stock can be adjusted to fit a huge variety of

"Accuracy is on the 'blimey' side of commendable"

TX is a 10-shot, side lever, shooters, and a

shooters, and accuracy is on the 'blimey!' side of commendable.





I had a few niggles, mainly about the rattle from the sling, and as it turns out, the spare magazines, and I wasn't fond of the cluster of Weaver rails at the fore end. Well, these negatives can be sorted extremely quickly, and doing so represents exactly what the new direction of this test is all about. First, either replace the rattly sprung clips on the, otherwise serviceable, sling, or tape them up so they can't jangle annoyingly at every step. Personally, I'd replace them.

As for those Weaver rails, I'd remove them, at least the two side-mounted ones, and I'd even seriously a bit of smoothing and filling to made the fore end tip more finger-friendly. These steps are entirely worth taking, because the performance and

potential of this rifle are so high. What began as 'not my sort of rifle', although others have qualified for this prejudice-driven tag, has now become something of a project rifle, and one that pleases me greatly, mainly due to its pure accuracy. Here's how to get your full quota of it.

SET UP FOR SUCCESS

I know I've gone on at length about taking extreme amounts of time to set up any adjustable rifle to suit your best shooting style, but to under-emphasise that feature, here, would be plain old wrong. Of course, the AT44 TX doesn't have



the wealth of adjustment options provided by, say, the Air Arms Ultimate Sporter, but that cheek piece and pull-length tweak is truly worth exploiting to the max. As ever, wear your usual shooting jacket and whatever you wear under it, before beginning the setup procedure, and make sure you have your scope-shifting spanners with you, too, because you'll need to move your sight if optimum efficiency dictates.

Now, make your first adjustments to the butt and cheek piece and settle behind the scope. Keep adjusting, in tiny increments, until everything feels perfect and

"That cheek piece and pull-length

tweak is truly worth exploiting"

you've got an equally perfect sight picture through your scope. Once you've done this, put away the rifle, safely of course, and go and make yourself a cup of tea, or set out some targets.

FINE-TUNING FIT

Give it at least 10 minutes, then return to your rifle, pick it up, face safely downrange, assume your normal standing stance, but don't shoulder the rifle yet.

Next, close your eyes and keep them closed as you shoulder the rifle and settle into your perfect position. When everything feels

just right,
open your
eyes. If
you have to
move your
head to acquire
a proper sight picture.

you have more adjustments to make. If you open your eyes and the scope is in perfect position, you're set to get the most out of your hardware.

By closing your eyes, you prevent yourself accommodating the rifle, when it should be the other way round, of course.

Many shooters go through their entire lives adapting themselves to their rifles and scopes, when a few moments' work would easily expose any compromise.

What you do once you discover that your rifle'scope combination doesn't fit you perfectly dictates what type of shooter you are, and all types are perfectly valid. However, if you genuinely want the best from yourself and your gear, you won't make do as far as gun fit is concerned. It's up to you, but it is a major factor in where your shooting will go.









BACK TO BASICS

The Hatsan AT44 TX 1022, like all rifles with the potential to produce top accuracy, will demand that you undertake extensive pellet tests. Yes that's obvious, but it's staggering just how many don't bother doing it. Too many find a pellet that performs well in a particular gun, then stick with that pellet no matter what. The test rifle loved Air Arms Diabolo Field, as do many different models, but I tested it with 10 different types before settling on the Fields, and I wouldn't be in the least surprised to find another example of the same model showing a preference for something else. Do those tests. It's compulsory.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Hatsan AT44 TX is a rifle that performs to a far higher level than its price tag would have you expect. Its styling won't suit everyone, but it will certainly fit most. It has a truly excellent trigger and autoload system, plus its accuracy is right up there with some of the best I've ever tested. A few details need sorting, mainly the rattles and that

TECH SPEC

Model: AT44TX-1022

Manufacturer: Hatsan

Country of origin: Turkey

Type: Ambidextrous, pre-charged,

multi-shot, tactical sporter

Calibre: .22.

Cocking: Sidelever

Loading: Via removable, 10-shot rotary

magazine

Trigger: 2-stage, adjustable unit

Stock type: Synthetic, ambidextrous,

matte-black skeleton type

Weight: 4 kg (8.8lbs) unscoped

Length: 1003mm (39.5ins) fully extended

Barrel: 487mm (19 ins)

Fill pressure: 200-bar

Shots per charge: 60-plus

Variation over 40 shots: 14 fps

Average energy: 11.4 ft.lbs.

Best group at 45 yards: 24 mm

diameter

Favoured pellet of test rifle: Air Arms

Diabolo Field

Contact: Edgar Brothers on: 01625

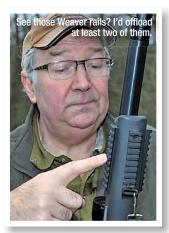
613177

www.shootingsports.edgarbrothers.com

RRP £410

cluster of Weaver adaptors up front, and I'd find some way of fitting a sliding butt pad, but everything you need is there, and that adjustable stock is a massive bonus

I've been genuinely surprised, even shocked, by the performance of this rifle, and I would strongly recommend anyone in the market for an affordable, practical, easy-to-use and extremely capable hunting rifle to take a close look at the Hatsan AT44 TX 1022.











EVERYDAY Nigel Jones is month – and a does things his

Nigel Jones is out lamping this month – and as always, he does things his way



A rriving at the farm at 10.30pm, I started to get my kit ready and immediately decided to fit the red filter to the lamp, just in case the rabbits spooked off the white beam. Rabbits are a bit skittish in certain situations, but lamping kits these days offer an array of filter colours, and if you find one that suits the rabbits on your patch, stick with it.

Unlike most, I use a head-mounted lamp as my main light source, and I set it up by aligning it over my left eye, with the lamp switched on, then I raise my rifle to look down the scope. I'm right-handed, so the beam of my lamp has to shine down the left side of the scope, and I carefully adjust the lamp so its spot aligns with the scope's crosshair at 30 yards, and that's it - job done. Then I load

the Ultimate Sporter's magazine with 10, .177 Air Arms Field pellets, and I'm ready for the off.

LOOKING PROMISING

All set, I had a quick systems check, made sure I had the wind in my face to carry my scent away from my direction of travel, and headed straight to the first field I wanted to cover. As I switched on my lamp for a two-second sweep, it looked promising ... very promising indeed. There were eyes glowing back at me from the centre of the fields and as I crept silently forward in the darkness, another brief recce' with the red-filtered lamp revealed a sizeable head of rabbits sitting out. That filter seemed to be working and the rabbits weren't fazed at all, just sitting pretty, munching away

with not a care in world.

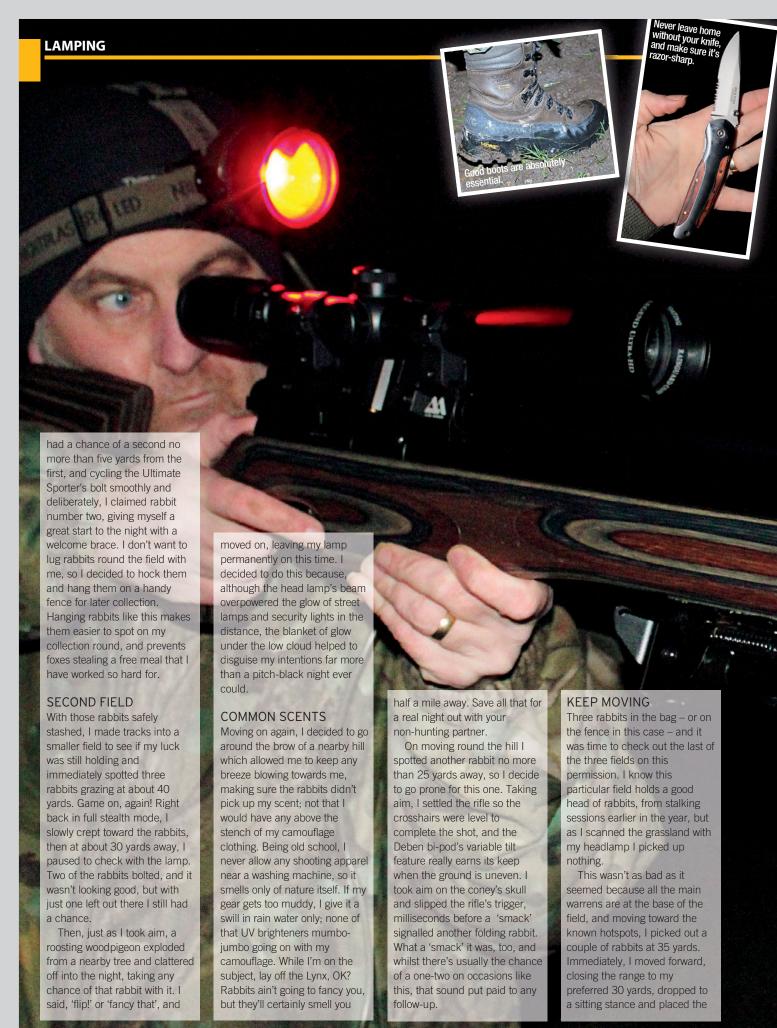
As I stalked closer to the grazing rabbits I noticed the grass was a bit crunchy. There was a slight ground frost, meaning I would have to go into full stealth mode and consider each footfall. Moving forward a little more, I arrived in range, and flicked on the lamp. Sometimes, when you place the beam directly on rabbits they start to move about, even if you use a filter, and this is where skill with the headlamp comes into the equation. I keep the main beam in front of my quarry so it doesn't run into the light, but tracking the glow of the rabbits' eyes I know exactly where they are.

EXTENDED LEGS

At this point, I usually go prone and take the shot, but I could see that my bi-pod wouldn't lift the rifle high enough to clear the dip I was standing in, unless I extended the legs, but thankfully I managed to do that without spooking my 'target' rabbit or any of those feeding near it. With the rabbit clearly defined in the red glow of my head lamp, I began to take aim, carefully picking my kill-zone and concentrating on the shot.

I have studied and learned from the best, and I take careful steps to ensure my shot placement is exactly centre mass of the brain area of the rabbit's skull. This gives me satisfaction that the rabbit will go down for definite, and it's killed humanely and instantly. Next, I carefully press through the sweet, two-stage trigger, sending my pellet to its mark. Crack! Down goes the rabbit without a twitch, and that's the first one in the bag. Luckily, I

| 2



NIGEL'S LAMPING REMINDERS

- Always make sure you carry your written permission.
- Carry your mobile phone just in case.
- Always tell your local police where you are lamping, shooting, and get an incident number.
- Tell someone where you are just in case an accident does occur and you don't have any signal or access to your mobile.
- . Before you take any shot make sure you are

- aware of what lies ahead of your quarry.
- Make sure you don't wear any deodorant or after-shave and always keep the breeze in your face.
- Wear waterproof boots with good grip.
- Make sure your knife is sharpened for gutting and hocking rabbits.
- Carry a fully-charged spare battery for long lamping forays and a spare bulb for your lamp.
- Start your lamping at around 11pm; this gives rabbits time to get out into the fields.
- Don't go out when the moon is bright and the sky is clear. Dark, overcast, breezy, and drizzly nights are best for lamping.
- When entering fields via farm gates, make sure you climb over at the hinge end. This prevents damage to the gate and maintains the silence you need.

"My little rabbit lamping ambush session was a big success"



crosshair on the rabbit's head. The shot connected perfectly, bowling over rabbit number four, which I retrieved immediately.

LOOKING FOR MORE

I knew there were more opportunities available if I

worked these fields well, so, still mindful of the wind direction, I set off around the perimeter. Patrolling the outside of the field allows me to 'work' rabbits toward the middle, where they can't scoot into burrows, hedge bottoms or bramble thickets. Also, rabbits follow their own

scent trails, but sometimes lose track of these in heavy rain or if you move them off with your lamp. Then, they often crouch down flat, thinking they can't be seen. I've stalked rabbits to within10 yards doing this, and this is how I bagged my fifth of the night, with a nice close-range, free-standing shot, just aiming high because the target was outside my 'first zero' point.

AMBUSH

For my next move I had a little session in the bottom corner of the field, ambushing, just as I do during the summer months. I simply sat down, checking every ten minutes with my lamp to see if any rabbits would emerge, and they certainly did. My little rabbit lamping ambush session was a big success and I added a further nine rabbits by 4am. By that time I was freezing, so I decided to head off home, collecting my

hocked rabbits on the way back to the car.

I'll be out again in a few nights' time, and I'll work the 'rabbit fields' of all my permissions fairly intensively until severe weather calls a halt to it all. Lamping can be incredibly productive, if you know what you're doing and you're aware of a few simple rules. I've included some of these in this article, but if you want to know more, please contact the magazine and I'll do my best to help.

Until next month, then.





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SUPPORTING ROLE Phill Price discovers a couple of Webleys to stop the wobblies

"They feel well made and solid, which means that they do weigh a fair bit" A choice of leg lengths will cover every shooter's build.



Like the original, it's attached by clamping onto the front sling swivel stud, and the mechanism that holds it also tightens it against the fore end to ensure that there's no unwanted movement. There's a small stud that you can attach your sling to in replacement.

The legs are controlled by two very sturdy springs that have plastic coatings to eliminate any noise as the legs are deployed.

Once they're

TECH SPEC

Importer

Highland Outdoors

www.highlandoutdoors.co.uk

0845 099 0252

Model

Webley Pro-Tilt

6"- 9"

RRP £51.99

9" -13" RRP £61.49

RRP £59.99-£61.49

down, quick-release buttons free the lower legs that adjust for height. There are two models: a 6" to 9" and a 9" to 13". I found the longer version suited me best.

In order to compensate for uneven ground the head of the bipod has a tilting function to ensure that you don't cant your rifle and cause inaccuracy. This is controlled by a friction device that I found was best kept quite snug. They feel well made and solid, which means that they do weigh a fair bit, but I'd rather carry a heavy bipod that works 100%, than a lightweight one that wobbles.

The icing on the cake with these is that they're almost half the price of the original, making them an absolute bargain.

If you shoot from the prone position regularly then you owe it to yourself to buy a bipod. The stability you gain makes it one of the most certain accessories to help you fill your game bag. During the summer when I want to shoot rabbits on well-grazed paddocks I take a bipod every time. Ranges tend to be longer on open land and I try to find some cover away and downwind of the

warren to hide with the rifle rested on the bipod. In this way I'm ready to shoot as the rabbits come out to feed.

It's immediately apparent that the Webley bipod is closely based on the classic Harris-style which has been the industry standard for over 30 years. It's been hard to improve upon because the designers got it right first time. The construction is all metal apart from the rubber feet and the pads that cushion the stock from the saddle.

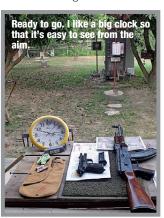


U.B.C. A.L.A.R.M.

Paddy Egan tells us of the UBC's 'A Local Area Response Militia' competition

We like our themed competitions, and this time we wanted to come up with an 'end of the world' scenario. So,we put our heads together and after some emails and ideas John Smith put together a Comprehensive 'Walk Through' pdf to get anyone interested into what laid ahead

Once people signed up they had a Training Assessment Pack emailed over, which had all the rules for the courses of fire and targets to complete. Within this there were six stages with three different roundel targets. The targets and courses of fire were based on NRA (USA) rules for centrefire, 50-foot target shooting, but the targets were scaled for use at six yards. Airguns required were any multi-shot air or airsoft pistol and rifle. The rifle didn't need to be multi-shot to allow competitors to use single-shot springers if they wished. The first three stages were for pistols, with time limits of 1 minute, 12 seconds and six seconds to complete the tasks assigned to each one. With the rifle stages you had longer time limits as these were aimed at being controlled shooting. However, the last stage was set for four minutes, but if the rifle was magazine fed, you were only allowed one magazine and these





had to be reloaded within the timescale, which evened the field out for any single-shot rifles being used. These targets were to be set out at our usual distance of six yards, as it is the most commonly available space especially for people who shoot in their gardens, garages or lofts.

TRAINING COMPLETE

Once the training was completed, people would send me the scorecard for their proficiency certificate and in return I would send them the full mission pack. This is the usual pattern for our simulated 'real life' competitions. Training was to set you up for the mission ahead with the techniques, timings and set-ups that you would be required to use.

On to the mission, which was set out in six stages (three pistol followed by two rifle, plus a novel rifle and pistol combined scenario) with three themed targets.

EACH STAGE HAD ITS OWN STORY BEHIND IT:

Stage 1 was a hostage held by two assailants. You had a 12-second time limit and on the signal to go you raised the pistol to the aim and fired two shots at the left villain, two shots at the right villain, back to the left for one shot and then returned to the right villain for the final shot, a total of six shots.

Stage 2 used the same target with both head and body shots plus a magazine change as an extra challenge within the time limit. On the signal to go, you raised pistol to the aim and fired three shots to the body of the left villain followed by three shots to the body of the right villain. Eject and reload the magazine and repeat the two sets of three shots, but this time to the heads of first the left then the right

villain. You had 30 seconds to complete this total of 12 shots.

fulti-shot targets

save ink and paper

Stage 3 was a target designed so that every competitor shot a different course of fire. You were confronted by a group of villains holding several hostages. There were nine people in the group, set out in a 3 x 3 grid, five of which were hostages. The distribution of the four villains was determined by the throw of a standard dice and this was repeated six times, each

"The first three stages were for pistols with time limits of 1 minute, 12 seconds and 6 seconds to complete the tasks assigned to each one"

with a new throw of the dice. You had 10 seconds to shoot each string of four shots.

Stage 4 was the first rifle target

was an A4 photo of city rooftops and the actual target for scoring was the second sheet of 10 men 'hidden' from the competitor by

"I quite enjoyed the novelty of switching between rifle and pistol"

and used the same 3 x 3 target of nine people as in stage 3. This was a rapid rifle fire target. Three shots had to be fired at each one - one shot to the head and two shots to the body (total number of shots is 27). You had seven minutes to complete the course.

Stage 5 simulated a sniper rifle situation. There are two target sheets involved. The first sheet sheet. The locations of these 10 targets were marked on the photo sheet by small numbered red circles (the 'men' were so well hidden they couldn't be seen by the naked eye!). You had to fire 10 shots standing with no support used; followed by a further 10 shots, but this time you could use any stance and any sort of rest

being placed behind the first you liked for the rifle. A copy of







the photo sheet with red circles could be placed by the competitor's side to simulate a spotter's view of the targets

Stage 6 was the same nine-man target as for stages 3 and 4 but this time the rifle and pistol was used alternately for each man. On the signal to go, you took up the rifle and fired one shot at the first man. Lay the rifle down, take the pistol and fire one shot at the second man and so on with three shots for the final central ninth man, one from the rifle and then two rapid fire from the pistol all in the two minutes.

UBC Member Adrian tells us his thoughts of the mission:

'It certainly was a varied, interesting and very challenging competition. Having a "Paddy's

Angels" (hostage in the middle of two baddies target) scenario for Stages 1 and 2 meant it was 'straight in at the deep end' where any fliers could result in starting the mission with a negative score! So I tended to aim on the side of caution ... resulting in four missed shots, but the hostage survived!

Whilst all stages had their own merits, I think it was the third where the course of shooting was decided by the throw of a dice which was the one I enjoyed the most and one which I intend to use for practising in the garden. Stage 4 was a relatively quick one for me as I was using an AEG and feel I should have made more use of the time allocated (although I was still very pleased with the score I achieved).

Stage 5 was another very interesting idea and quite a challenge ... it might have used up a bit of ink, but what a devilishly clever idea. Finally, we have Stage 6, which if I was asked to choose my favourite part of the competition (a difficult question) would hold equal position with Stage 3 as I quite enjoyed the novelty of switching between rifle and pistol

Thanks again to everyone involved, especially Paddy and John.'

As Adrian suggested, we have gone straight into the production of a variation of these themes for a Spring Competition which will be designed for two separate categories. One will be lead-pelletfiring pistols and rifles and a separate category will be for BB pistols and rifles.



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HIGH



've always liked the idea of hunting with a 'big-bore' rifle, namely .25 calibre, but in my opinion they offer no advantages at 12 ft.lbs. over the more popular calibres. However, at high-power, say around 30 ft.lbs. it starts to make sense in my eyes. I've spoken to a number of manufacturers who make them for the export market because the calibre tends to extract the maximum muzzle energy from most PCPs. However, in the UK there seems to be little interest, so I jumped at the chance to test one when BSA told me that they offer the R-10 Mk2 in .25 high-power. Muzzle energy should exceed 30ft.lbs. and what's more it's a gun I know well, as I own a .22 for ratting work.

They allowed me to select the camouflaged stock, which I like for the purpose I had in mind. Over the winter I enjoy what I consider to be the cream of airgun sport, which is culling squirrels on the game shooting estates where I work my gundogs. The keepers hate squirrels, as do the foresters and gardeners, for that matter, so my efforts to reduce their numbers are always welcome. My go-to rifle is my Daystate Mk4 iS in .22 calibre that launches Air Arms Field pellets at 930 fps and is the best squirrel gun I've ever tried. It's not so much how hard these pellet strike, but the flatness of the trajectory and their ability to fly straight in the wind that makes the effort of getting a firearm certificate worth it

for me. The rifle and pellet combination is also the most accurate I've ever tried, a factor that becomes more important as range increases.

hard hitter

SHROUDED

The R-10 high-power looks no different to the 12 ft.lbs. model apart from the longer barrel and shroud assembly. If I'd had the chance I'd have asked for a conventional silencer rather than a shroud, because in the past I've found that combination to be far quieter. So, imagine my surprise when I heard just how little noise this rifle makes. It's possible to add a screw-on silencer to make it

quieter still, but I felt no need.

I fitted my workhorse Hawke Airmax 30 scope and zeroed the rifle with Air Arms Field pellets which weigh 25.4 grains in .25 and was stunned by the accuracy. The firing cycle feels little different to my other R-10 and I found it easy to get tight groups

with straight away. The first-class trigger is a joy to

use and something I value highly. The high comb of the stock and generous drop to heel make this an ideal rifle for standing shots which is pretty much what every shot I take at squirrels will be.

There's an indefinable quality that some guns have which simply makes them easy to hit with and this rifle certainly has it. I've been out three times and my worst bag was seven squirrels which is good going in my book, especially with gun I'm not that familiar with yet. There's no denying that the big pellet flying fast 'gets their attention' but I'm not completely sold on taking chest shots with it.



"I've been out three times and my worst bag was seven squirrels"

A couple have needed a second shot, so I'm sticking to head shots for now.

COMPARISON

Being a ballistics nerd I'm keen to run a side-by-side comparison with my .22 to see where the differences are and if one has an advantage over the other. The obvious difference is that the .22 flies much faster. The heavy .25 is 200fps slower which translates into a more curved trajectory and the need for more careful range estimation.

The way my .22 is set up the pellet is less than ½" above or below the point of aim all the way from 11 to 49 yards, and I don't shoot beyond 50 yards any way.

I'll try the lighter H&N FTT in .25, which weighs under 20 grains so will fly much faster but doesn't have such a good ballistic coefficient, and loses velocity faster than the Air Arms Field. I also have some of BSA's own

SPEC

BSA R-10 MK2

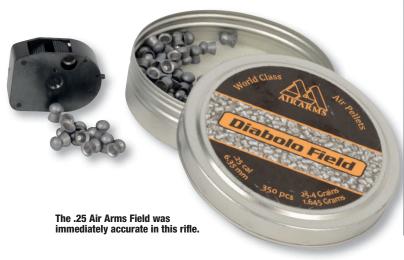
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Model:	R-10 Mk2
Web:	www.bsaguns.co.uk
Туре:	Pre-charged pneumatic
Action:	Bolt action, multi-shot
Trigger:	Two-stage, adjustable
Length:	113cm (44 ½")
Weight:	3.4kg (7.5lbs)
Calibres:	.17722, .25(on test)
Magazine	capacity: 8 in .25

RRP £780.00

Pylarm pellets to try and I'll be using whichever is most accurate from my test gun.

I'll report back later in the winter to let you know how I get on.

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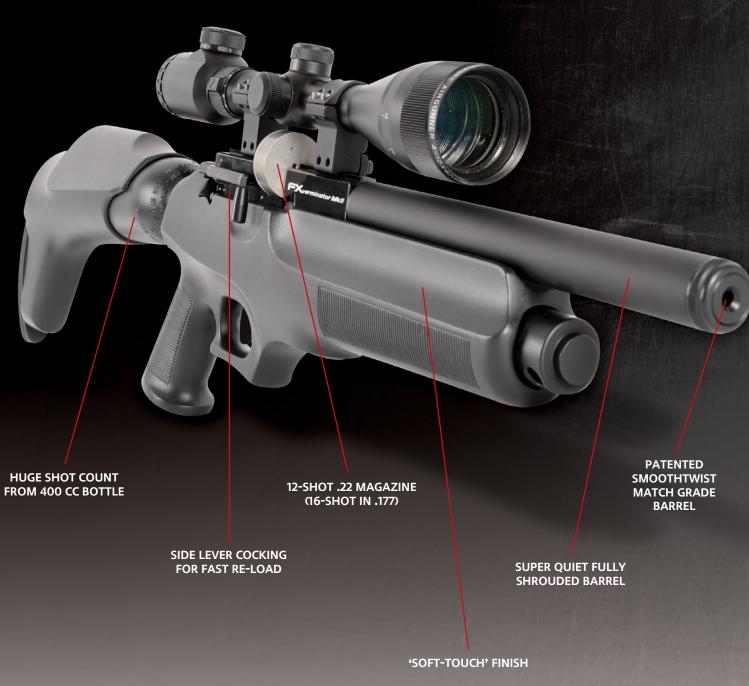




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TAKING IT TO

Travis DuPonte reports from the heat of competition, at the 2014 Extreme Benchrest tournament, Arizona, U.S.A.

November Sunday morning in ATuscon, Arizona, and it's a showdown at sun-up, as competitors gather for Extreme Benchrest 2014, the USA's most prestigious airgun competition. This match is a 75-yard, 25-target, test of nerve and technique, where everything can be won and lost on the next swirl of the hot desert wind. In this contest you pit yourself against 95 other shooters, your own nerves, and that ever-present banshee that howls, whispers and hides whenever the fancy takes it. From a zephyr to some invisible fist, the Arizona wind is the main enemy out here, and the winner will always be the shooter who second-guesses it. There were so many up for the challenge that it took the whole morning for them to take their turns, but it was clear that everyone had enjoyed their

highly-intense 30 minutes on the firing line.

CRUNCH TIME

After all the number-crunching, probably the most obvious thing to see is the incredible consistency of the top shooters. Also clear is that the competition is as tight and unforgiving as it can be. One point dropped will be enough to cast you down the running order. There was however one hugely significant fact to emerge this year, the juniors - many of them who have never shot at this level before - are storming into the arena and laying down eye-watering scores.

KNOWING THE SCORE

The silhouette competition last year was, literally, a bit of a shouting match, with competitors who had completed the knockdown of the 16 targets

calling out their lane number in the hope that the judges would hear them and note down their finishing time. The organisers this year came up with an electronic scoring system, and after rolling out over 2000 feet of cabling, each shooting position had itself a big red button. Hit the button when you'd completed the course and your time would be recorded electronically at the judges' desk.

This was a do-or-die system; if it worked it would be a fantastic improvement, but if it didn't, the whole Silhouette competition would dissolve into chaos. Days of testing showed promise and final >>>







their entrance fee in the pot. Milbro gave its place to 11 year-old Beau Hall, whose father drove him for eight hours overnight to take part. While Beau did OK in the shooting, he cleaned up in the raffle with a clutch of prizes, including a Milbro Huggett Airwolf moderator and a chance to meet the man himself. Andrew Huggett. Another junior, 12 year-old Noah Nilsson, benefitted from a free place from another shooter who couldn't make it to Tucson. Noah went on to win the gold medal in the Junior Silhouette competition, but, as his score beat all the adults in the Sportsman class, he also walked away with a

hardened old timers, and made everyone proud to be in our sport.

THE END GAME

In the end, US airgun stalwart, Tim McMurray, using his USFT Lone Ranger .30, won the 75 Pro class this year with a score of 239 including 8Xs, a spectacular piece of shooting. The rest of the top five were FX Airguns rifles. Freddie Axelsson, shooting his own Bobcat .30, had to concede fourth place to last year's winner - also shooting a Bobcat! Freddie was, if nothing else, consistent, clocking up exactly the same score of 227 this year as last year - and ending up in just the same

checks on competition day went without hitch, glitch or snarl-up. Now it was the big test. Officials gathered nervously as the shooting began. In two minutes or so, all would become clear.

The first results came through flawlessly and the recording team started to relax, until one lane kept reporting its time over and over, blocking the system. "Finger off the button, Lane X" (let's spare his blushes-Ed.) "Stop pressing it!" Within a moment, calm was restored and there were no further problems. This new system delivered what was almost

"This year's Extreme Benchrest showed that we airgunners are a fine and generous bunch of people"

certainly the most accurately recorded speed shoot in airgunning history.

ON TO THE EXTREME

This year's Extreme Benchrest showed that we airgunners are a fine and generous bunch of people, perhaps with one exception. Two young lads benefitted from the generosity of competitors who decided they wouldn't shoot but would leave



Hit that red button!

\$250 gift voucher. Probably even more valuable was meeting one of his airgunning heroes, Ted Bier of Ted's Holdover fame.

EXTREME GENEROSITY

There was just one dark cloud over the weekend, when 13 year-old Ezra Park lost his left-handed Daystate Huntsman. Extensive searches failed to turn it up, and it's still not known if it was just misplaced, gathered up by mistake or actually stolen. With no sign of it by the closing ceremony, Daystate's Mauro Marocchi and Airguns Of Arizona's Robert Buchanan stepped in and generously promised to deliver a new Huntsman to the young lad. It was a moving moment even for

fifth position.

The 25-metre Pro Class was a 736-point tie for first place, with officials having to check back for the first miss to separate the shooters. Overall, Daystates put on a good show in the 25-metre, taking 4th, 6th and 9th places, with an Air Arms EV2 Mark 4 in 10th spot. Full results can be seen at: www.extremebenchrest com/2014-extreme-benchrestmatch-results/

So, that's another Extreme Benchrest done and dusted. It was, once again, magnificent, and I can only urge everyone with the ability to get out here, to come and experience it for themselves. As your editor will confirm - there ain't nothin' like it!



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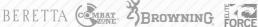
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GET YOUR FILL!

Here's an idea for the club, shop, or committed airgunner who wants PCP refills on tap

During the last couple of months, I've been using a device that is currently taking the hi-performance U.S. pre-charged pneumatic market by storm. It's the Omega GX-3 4500 p.s.i. compressor, and I've been wanting to get my hands on one since I heard about it during last year's S.H.O.T. Show in Las Vegas. I finally got my chance when the delivery driver and his little trolley dropped one off to me, and within ten seconds after signing for it, I

knew why that driver had used a trolley.

PROPER KIT

This Omega GX-3 is a substantial item. It's built from extremely high quality components, and it's designed to last for years on the absolute minimum of servicing, but most of all, it's easy to use. Once you've read the instructions, added the supplied coolant and antifreeze, topped up with water and attached the main charging hose,

it's just a matter of fitting your airgun's charging adaptor, setting the required fill pressure on the big, front mounted dial, then plugging the Omega into the mains and switching on.

CHARGING TIMES

Charging a rifle takes between 3 to 5 minutes, a 3-litre tank 40 minutes or so, and it takes a couple of hours to fill a full-size diver's cylinder. For the larger volume containers, I simply set the

pressure, made sure the air-bleed vent screw was closed, then I left it to its own devices. The unit shuts down automatically, and has a built-in, replaceable burst disc as a safety feature, as well as a variable venting feature, which allows the user to drain any moisture from the device. I was told that each unit is tested for around 24 hours operating time before despatch, and it will run for around 300 hours - there's a counter to let you keep track of this - before any further top-ups or maintenance of any kind is required.

In use, the Omega GX-3 makes about the same amount of noise as a quiet tumble-drier, and you should allow the unit to run-on for a minute or two, while its coolant system does its job before shut-down. I have to say, this compressor really is simplicity itself to use, and short of checking test dates on air tanks, and making sure all connections are clean and secure, there is nothing to it that's beyond the workaday common sense of any responsible person.

SERIOUS INVESTMENT

The asking price of the Omega GX-3 is every bit as substantial as its build quality, and at £1300 plus VAT and shipping, it represents a serious investment. For a shop, pest control company, or busy airgun club, though, this could well be an investment worth making.

Contact info@gilbertdistribution. co.uk or phone 01953 860323 for further details.





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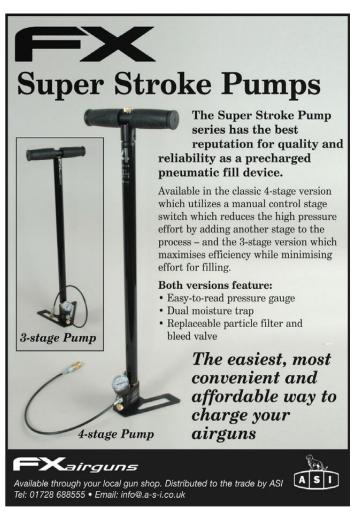
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FEMALE AIRGUNNER

Pannis YEAR

Danni Layton tells us about her aims and aspirations for 2015

t's become a tradition in my household that once every month my friends descend upon my home for a movie and pizza evening. On this particular evening, before the picture show started we all broke into discussion about the year that was coming to an end and what we have achieved, or failed to achieve. One of my friends spoke about their new car, another about their new kitchen, but for me as always it was all about airgunning.

A couple of my friends told me I have an unhealthy gun fetish, so I used this opportunity to explain to them that how it's almost a spiritual thing for me. I know all you hunters out there understand where I'm coming from; to be out in wild places can make me feel so connected to what's real. I live on a typical modern housing estate, so when I can find time to get out into our beautiful British countryside I'm cherishing every millisecond.

TESTING TIMES

One of the things I've started

doing over the last few months, which has really made a massive improvement to my accuracy, is testing different pellet brands through my rifles. I was sceptical that this would really make much difference, but when you set some target cards out at 25 yards and try different brands through your rifle, it's amazing how the variation in pattern size becomes obvious. So I've learned now that each of my rifles has its own preferred pellet. I've also started washing and lubricating my pellets and, along with testing different brands, it's improved my groups no end.

SCOPE FOR CHANGE

I must confess that since I've started shooting, when it's come to the delicate business of fitting a scope and mounts to my rifles I've always played the, 'but I'm just a girl, can you do it for me?' card, and I've always had one of my shooting buddies come and do this highly scientific surgical procedure on my behalf. These days, I'm willing to stand on my tallest kitchen stool and shout to

the world that the last two scopes fitted to my rifles, I did all on my lonesome. So now if I miss, it's all down to me!

LESS IS MORE

One of the big decisions I had to make this year was trying to find an even more compact air rifle for my pigeon decoying. I'd been using an FX Verminator MK1 which has been a truly fantastic rifle to me but even though it's really compact, I still occasionally found myself getting tangled in my hide net at a crucial moment. So after many hours spent trolling the internet and going through all my back issues of Airgun World and Air Gunner magazines, I finally decided upon an Evanix Rainstorm and so far it's proving to be a wise choice. Little did I know that buying this gun would also unlock a door of opportunity.

I decided to buy the Rainstorm from the fantastic guys at Solware of Tamworth, through recommendation of a trusted shooting friend. Unbeknown to me, the guys were already aware of my Trigger Happy community Facebook page, so I was blown away when Carl the owner and shop manager, Tye, made an incredible offer of allowing me to review some of the fantastic range of pistols and rifles Solware stocks!

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

As we go into this New Year, something I will definitely be doing is joining a club. Having a place I can go to, to draw off the available knowledge to improve my own shooting, is an absolute must! I've been narrowing down the clubs by friendliness, approachability and distance, and at last I've found a club that fits the bill perfectly.

PUTTING SOMETHING BACK

Something I'd like to achieve in the New Year, when spring finally hits us, is to set up shooting days on one of my permissions for those who have been unsuccessful in gaining land to shoot on. I am very lucky to have somewhere to be able to shoot and never take it for granted, and



turnout and that I, and those selected, can learn from each other. For those who are unable to travel or already have their own permission, who would like the opportunity to have a day shooting and getting together, we have had several offers to host some Trigger Happy shooting days at various ranges across the UK, and this is something we will be looking into in the New Year to get us all together mingling and doing the one thing we are all so passionate about.

PLINKING GREAT!

As you guys may already know, I love my back garden plinking. It's so much fun and when boredom hits, I take out my pistols and get some fun practice in. Something else I would like to improve this year is a bigger, back garden, air

meeting loads of like-minded people. Days and events such as this will be added to our blog spot on our webpage, and we'll give a full run-down of the day we've experienced. There are other topics I'll be dabbling in, but these are under wraps right now, so you guys will have to be patient and stay tuned to our webpage for these updates.

INCREDIBLE YEAR

I have to say, although my year has been incredible and full of opportunities, when I do find the time to get out there when the sun is rising and the rest of the world are just waking, while I'm lying in a field awaiting my next shot ... nothing beats that feeling of freedom and peace! After all, it was this feeling that had me hooked on our sport in the first

place.

As far as the Trigger Happy pages go, I do have a team of administrators who help me out, but we wouldn't be able to do anything without the support of the airgunners out there. The feedback, the support, the discussions, participating in our competitions and sharing our group, watching our reviews and reading our stories ... well, it's absolutely amazing and we appreciate every single one of our members and helping us to help show just how brilliant our sport is!

If you're interested in taking part, don't forget to check out my Facebook page and I can steer you in the right direction. Thanks for taking the time to read, and I hope you all manage to get out there in the New Year. Stay safe and happy shooting!



Rabbit scrapes and the great outdoors means a fieldful of fun



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SPRING BACK NTIME

Tim Finley takes a retrospective look at a couple of desirable BSA pistols

A brace of truly collectable, and highly-shootable, BSA

know that some of you may not have heard of one of the pistols in this piece, but the other one has a massive reputation

and will be familiar to most, if not all. First, the well-known one. which is also the oldest model.

THE SCORPION

The BSA Scorpion is basically a cut-down rifle action in a pistol stock, and it peaked many shooters' interest when it first came out. Launched in 1973, the first batch, carrying an 'RA' prefixed serial number, had to be recalled because they tended to stray uncomfortably close to the 6 ft.lbs. UK legal limit. The next batch was fitted with a weaker mainspring, stamped with an 'RB' prefix, and

released to an eager marketplace.

The Scorpion is an adult pistol in every sense of the word, and that relatively short barrel makes it difficult to cock until you learn the knack. A slide-on cocking aid was made to fit over the barrel but not all second-hand Scorpions have retained this piece of practical plastic, and the steel hood over the foresight is often missing, too. Elsewhere, you'll note the glossy-black synthetic grip, with its deeplyraked angle and embossed chequered pattern on both sides. It's a handsome handful and no mistake.

COST AND CONDITION

A reasonable second-hand Scorpion will set you back between £140 to £175. I bought the example pictured in 2010 for £145 from Henry Krank, and it

was in fine condition, apart from that missing cocking aid and slight damage to the very back of the grip. I managed to obtain a new grip and replacement cocking aid from John Knibbs at www.airgunspares.com, although both are currently out of stock as I write. The front sight hood was also missing but again I was able to source one

My chrono showed a power output of 5 ft.lbs., and the single-stage trigger is very positive at 1.2kg let-off, and doesn't feel

cloth, because the grip was as it came in the factory spares bin in an unfinished state and not the lovely deep gloss-black you expect to see on a Scorpion. A bit of elbow grease soon had it looking good, though, so don't be afraid of replacing it.

THAT 'OTHER' PISTOL

Production of the Scorpion ceased in 1994 when it was replaced by the other model in this article, the one you may not have heard of. The BSA 240 Magnum was a

"The Scorpion is an adult pistol in every sense of the word"

heavy. You do need a two-handed grip because this is a hefty pistol. Should you buy one that's down on power, a new breech seal and mainspring are not expensive and relatively easy to obtain.

I had to finish off the new grip with Autosol finishing paste and a different beast to the mini-rifle Scorpion. It looked like a Colt 45 Auto/1911, and cocking is via an over-lever not a break-barrel as with the Scorpion.

The 240 Magnum only had a seven year life span, which I believe is far too short for such a







"Getting the massive Scorpion fulfilled a boyhood dream and the 240 Magnum is a most underrated pistol"

an excellent airgun. It did have its faults, and the thin wooden grip has as many detractors as it has fans. The scope rail is glued on and the .22 version does not have the adjustments available in the rear, open-notch sight to shoot at longer distances, due to the .22 pellets' looping trajectory. You end up aiming over the top of targets, which is never ideal with open sights because you mask the target. BSA overcame this by



The dedicated .22 scope mount.

one-inch diameter pistol scope. The mount was called the C40 and you will see 'BSA' stamped on the side. The glued-on scope rail then had the potential to fall off if a big, heavy scope was fitted!

STILL NEED THE KNACK

Cocking again has a knack to it on the 240 Magnum and the power levels are around the 3ft.lbs. area, although some claim it was higher. The two-stage trigger is very light at 0.8kg, and it's backed by an automatic safety catch in front of the trigger blade. I managed to get a near-mint .22 in 2010 and I snapped it up for £75, along with a load of spares. I also tracked down a C40 mount from John



240 Magnum was voted 'Pistol of the Year' for two years running and I for one think it deserved it.

The Magnum cocks with an over-lever action, rather than a

break-barrel set up.

Expect to pay between £100 to £150 for one, depending upon its condition.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I wanted to own the two BSA spring pistols and am really glad I do. Getting the massive Scorpion fulfilled a boyhood dream and the 240 Magnum is a

most underrated pistol with some nice design touches. I found I could shoot the 240, too; it hits what I am aiming at as does the Scorpion, albeit with a bigger 'thump'. I wish BSA would resurrect the 240 because with a few tweaks to the design, it could easily rival anything out there. If you get the chance of owning either, or both, of these pistols, don't pass it up. I promise the piled-arms company also made a couple of great short ones!















MESSENGER BAG























FOXTROT WAIST BAG







SHOOT AT HOME



Stuck for a permission? New gun for Christmas and nowhere to shoot it? No problem; if you've got a back garden, the right attitude to your neighbours and bit of common sense, you can plink away until the cows come home.

When I was a callow youth, sometime around the Battle of Bannockburn, I'd cycle home from the newsagents clutching the latest Airgun World and a big bag of sweets, and lock myself in my room to devour slowly every last

column inch. I'd drool over the centre spreads of the tuned Weihrauchs, and scrutinise every guns, but also had access to the sort of shooting permissions that every airgunner dreamed of. I

premium permissions available to me, and trust me, I look after them. I also know nothing has

"I'd cycle home from the newsagents clutching the latest Airgun World and a big bag of sweets"

advert for the best mail order deal, even though it was but wishful thinking.

I'd linger over the hunting reports, and wonder at the amazing good fortune of the writers who not only had the best would lie awake at night, thinking about it. Seriously.

FORTUNATE FELLOW

Now that I'm the one doing the writing, I understand fully how fortunate I am. I have a number of

changed over the years; many readers have yet to find themselves a good permission, and while I absolutely believe that time and persistence will always pay off, that doesn't help in the present moment. but all is



certainly not lost. Until such time as you find suitable land on which to go hunting for your own food, you can become an airgun sharpshooter on your own property. You don't need a lot of space; five metres gives you plenty of room to shoot an air pistol, and any more than that puts you in rifle territory, but before you start blatting away, there are some important considerations, and the first of these is the law.

LEGAL AND GENERAL

As an airgunner, you must have

an understanding of the legal position relating to our sport, and ignorance is no defence. For the purposes of back garden plinking, there are two very important things to understand; it is an offence to allow airgun pellets to cross your boundary, and it is an offence to fire an airgun within 50 feet of the centre of a highway if this results in someone being injured, interrupted or endangered. For example, if you were shooting in your backyard and the pellets were ricocheting on to a nearby footpath, that would be

endangering passers-by.

Six yards and a pistol equals miles of shooting fun.

But it's not just about the law. If you are lucky enough to live in a detached property with no immediate neighbours, great - you don't need to worry too much about what they think. Most of us have neighbours to one or both sides, and they are people with whom we have to get along. So rather than simply ploughing ahead regardless, safe in the righteous knowledge that the law is on your side, accept that many people are afraid of guns, and that your neighbours may be among them. Talk to them. Tell them you would like to set up an informal target range in your garden. Invite them round to show them what you have planned. Explain how you'll be shooting into a trap that will catch the pellets, and that any stray shots will be caught by the backstop - you have thought about a backstop, haven't you? Offer your neighbour a shot of your gun, if it seems appropriate; do whatever you can to pave the way to understanding and harmony.

SOUND INVESTMENTS

As far as your gun is concerned, if you have a moderated PCP and you stuff your pellet trap with old carpet, you will make so little noise that it is unlikely anyone will even know you're shooting, but the beauty of backyard shooting is that you can have just as much fun with something far less expensive and complex. The BSA Meteor we are using was bought third-hand for £20, the scope about the same, and the pellet traps and targets came to around £40. For well under £100, we have a garden range that the whole family enjoys. We hold informal competitions with this and an HW45 pistol, so that even if there is only an hour or so to spare, we can fit in a bit of target time

RANGE OF DELIGHTS

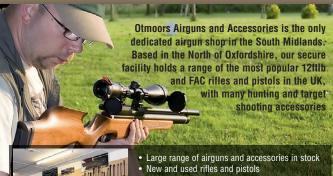
That's the beauty of airguns; their sheer versatility means you can enjoy shooting in a huge range of circumstances, whether it's out in the fields or just in the back garden. It's something you cannot say of any other shooting discipline; you can't just rig up a clay pigeon trap in your garden and start blasting away with a 12-bore.

This freedom is a privilege that we should always go out of our way to protect, and never take for granted. Wherever you can, smooth the way ahead, especially where your neighbours are concerned. You'll be glad you did. Be safe, and happy shooting!





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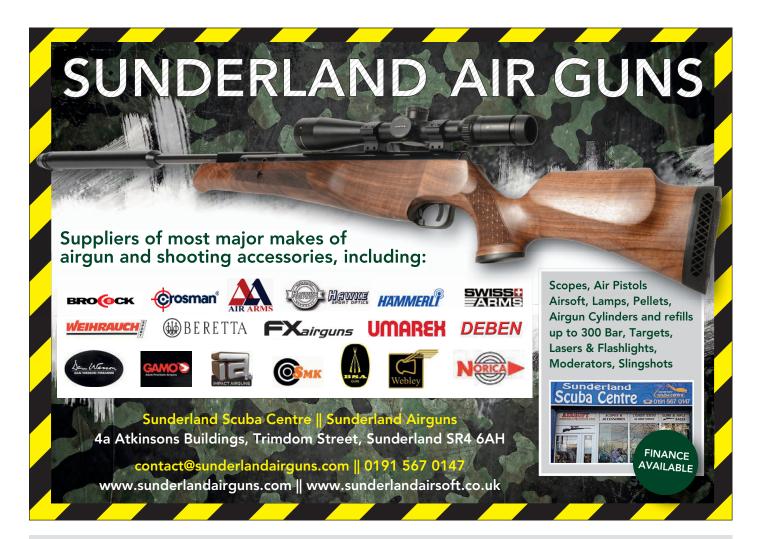
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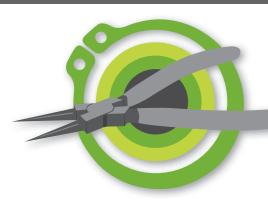








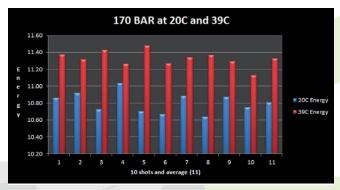
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Following on from his article 'Hot and Cold PCPs', the onset of cooler autumn temperatures gives Jim the long-awaited opportunity to put his findings to the test

or the benefit of anyone who missed last November's Airgun World. I tested two PCPs acclimatised over a range of temperatures, but charged to the same pressure, and found that there appeared to be a linear relationship between temperature and muzzle velocity.

One of the tests was with my .22 Webley Raider 10, which I charged to 170 BAR with the rifle and air tank acclimatised to 20C. recorded the muzzle velocity, then heated the rifle to 30C, which raised the cylinder pressure by 5.8 BAR, and recorded the muzzle velocity. The rise in muzzle velocity increased muzzle energy by 0.7 ft. lb., which is a far greater



The muzzle energy of ten shots each at 39C and 20C, shows that raising the temperature created an extra half foot pound at the muzzle.

increase than could be attributed to the tiny increase in cylinder pressure due to the rise in temperature, and must therefore have been due to the temperature

Other tests had also suggested that the relationship between temperature and muzzle velocity was linear, and so I plotted the two velocities from the Raider test, and extrapolated down to OC. The result can be seen in the bar chart 'Velocity from a 170 BAR fill'

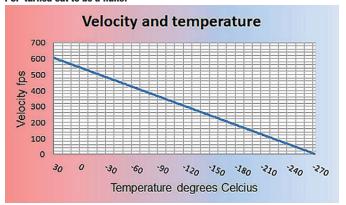
The object of testing the Raider had originally been to corroborate the results from tests with .177 that suggested PCP muzzle velocity varied with temperature, so testing at two temperatures was sufficient at the time. The chart suggested that each degree C altered muzzle velocity by in the region of 2 fps. but using just two readings was not going to produce especially accurate results, so I acclimatised the tank and rifle at 13C,15C and 11C, charged the cylinder to 170 BAR, took a shot at each temperature, and the velocity was as predicted. Five shots all lined up seemed compelling proof of a linear relationship.

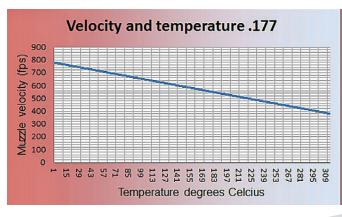
Curious to see what effect shooting at freezing point rather than 30C would make to the

"Other tests had also suggested that the relationship between temperature and muzzle velocity was linear"

weather, I can't wait to test the rifle trajectory, I typed the data into Hawke Chairgun Pro, and the result can be seen in the screenshot '30C and freezing. The difference in .22 trajectory between 30C and 0C doesn't really make itself felt at ranges under 35 yards. (Courtesy Hawke Chairgun Pro). 30C and freezing Tab #2 (0.20) Hawke Technically Advanced Optics www.hawkeoptics.com

Below: What initially seemed like a breakthrough in our understanding of the PCP turned out to be a fluke!





TRAJECTORY

Hunters who use their PCPs year round would probably not notice any difference in trajectory out to 30 yards, possibly 35 yards, while some might detect the extra quarter of an inch drop at 40 yards, beyond which the extra pellet drop does become apparent. In other words, most .22

shooters who limit their range to 30 or 35 yards would not be aware that their PCP's muzzle energy had dropped by 1.75 ft.lb. from its summer peak (assuming we get 30C air temperature), short of testing the rifle over a chrono as the seasons progressed.

The tests and extrapolation to OC do not reflect what would



happen in real life, though, because we wouldn't charge a PCP on the hottest day of the summer, but not fire a shot until the winter, because the cylinder pressure would have fallen enough (153 BAR at 0C) to decrease the shot count significantly.

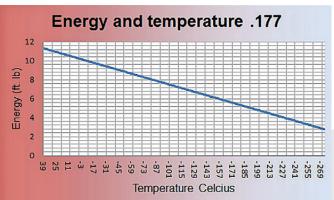
DABBLING WITH SCIENCE

At absolute zero, which is -273C (zero degrees Kelvin), the

velocity hit zero fps at -272K, which can be seen in the graph 'Velocity and temperature'...

This seemed far too good to be true, and when things seem too good to be true, they usually are. To put the finding to the test, I dug up some data from tests with a .177 at 39C and 20C, in which I'd weighed each pellet, taken ten shots at each temperature, and arrived at an average velocity and muzzle energy. Entering the data

Below: Testing the data from .177 brought me back to earth with a bump.



"The relationships between temperature and velocity or energy are not strictly linear"

molecules in an ideal gas would have no energy and be perfectly stationary. As the gas temperature rises, the molecules gain energy, some of which is vibrational, some rotational, and some translational, the last denoting that the molecules have linear motion, and hence momentum and kinetic energy. When the molecules with translational energy hit the wall of the container they are in, they create pressure, which we measure in psi (pounds per square inch), or BAR. The higher the gas temperature, the greater the translational energy, the higher the pressure.

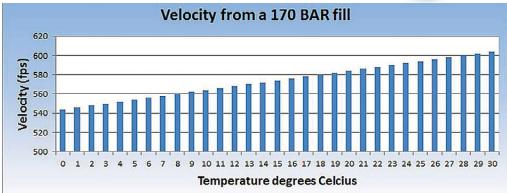
In theory, if the air in a PCP cylinder was absolute zero (which can't actually happen, because air liquefies at 78K and solidifies before reaching absolute zero), the air would have no energy and the velocity of the pellet would be 0 fps, so I extrapolated the velocities I'd recorded at 30C, 20C 15C, 13C and 11C back, and the

into a spreadsheet and extrapolating back to -273C, it became clear that the five shot .22 data extrapolating to .-272K had been the most extraordinary fluke, and was due to the rifle losing around 2 fps per degree, and the muzzle velocity at 0C being roughly twice 272.

The relationships between temperature and velocity or energy are not strictly linear, but all is far from lost, because the relationship between temperature and both velocity and energy within the limited temperature ranges in which we shoot is near enough to being linear to be of some practical use.

If you test a PCP using carefully weighed pellets, with the rifle acclimatised to two different temperatures but charged to the same pressure, then divide the difference between the two average velocities or energies by the difference in temperature in degrees C, you end up with an





"Clearly, the muzzle energy follows ambient temperature more closely than does velocity."

approximation of the velocity or energy drop that you can expect from a 1C change in temperature.

For instance, when I tested the .177 to get the ten-shot average velocities, the 39C average was 777 fps, the 20C averaged 759 fps. The 21 fps difference divided by the 19C temperature difference gave a fall of 1.1 fps per 1C, so at 10C, we could expect a velocity in the region of 748fps.

Alternatively, working with the energies, the 11.33 ft. lb at 39C minus the 10.81 ft. lb, at 20C shows a drop of 0.52 ft. lb. over a temperature range of 19 degrees, which works out at 0.027368 ft. lb. per degree C, so at 10C, we could expect a muzzle energy of 10.81 minus 0.27369, or 10.52 ft. lb which, with an 8.5 grain pellet would mean a muzzle velocity of 746.7 fps. The question arises of

which is the more accurate, velocity or energy?

Happily, the temperature in my workshop was an autumnal 10C, so I acclimatised the rifle, charged it to 170 BAR, weighed out some 8.5 grain pellets and lo and behold, the average velocity was 746.2 fps. Clearly, the muzzle energy follows ambient temperature more closely than does velocity.

The variation in muzzle velocity with ambient temperature isn't great, but anyone who relies on multiple aim point scope reticles to hunt at long range throughout the four seasons with a PCP would

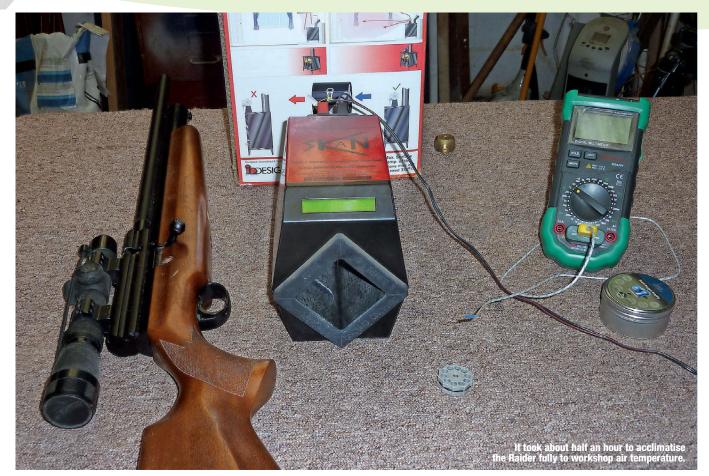
No less than five test shots at different temperatures lined up to produce this bar chart of velocity and temperature.

do well to calibrate their rifle's response to temperature as described.

SPRINGERS AND PCPS

If you have read Mike Wight's article in this month's issue, you will be aware that the compressed air in the springer has both potential energy (pressure, volume) and the internal, or 'thermal' energy, and that both have to be converted into kinetic energy to drive the pellet, and the compressed air in the PCP is exactly the same; the expansion of air when a shot is taken converts thermal energy into kinetic energy, and the temperature drops like the proverbial stone. The higher the initial temperature, the more energy there is to be liberated, and that's why PCP muzzle energy varies with temperature.

So, if you test your PCP in the winter months, don't worry if the muzzle energy is a little lower than it was in the summer; it's perfectly normal.



EXPLORING THE TRANSFER PORT

Part One: Operating Principles. Mike Wright gives us the first part of a major article on the science and design of springer transfer ports.



to the pellet. This lack of prior knowledge puts any new approaches (like this article) on a potentially shaky foundation from the outset. On the experimental front, enthusiasts have tried out various ideas, including dispensing with the transfer port altogether, opening it up to the same diameter as the barrel and different forms of internal streamlining, all in attempts to overcome the 'losses' in the transfer port. As far as I can see, the net results have been generally inconclusive, (as were my own similar flounderings in the 1980s), but, what do we actually know for sure, and where do we start to figure out what is really going on in the transfer port?

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE Consider what we do know about

Efficient energy conversion requires, not only the direct transfer of pressure to the base of the pellet, but also a rapid reduction of air temperature, which liberates the internal energy to additional kinetic energy for the air and the pellet. Both processes are facilitated by the transfer port. The first of these functions is hindered by an undersized transfer port, whilst the second function is compromised by too large a port.

It has now been something like 40 years since the Cardews (in 'The Airgun from Trigger to Muzzle') proved that the correct diameter of transfer port was critical to energy efficiency and showed that muzzle energy fell, if the diameter was either too large

"what do we actually know for sure, and where do we start to figure out what is really going on in the transfer port?"

his three-part article has been written, on and off, over a couple of years or more, to try to explain my own perspective on the vital role of the transfer port in spring gun performance. It might seem surprising that such a long time and so many words should be devoted to the little hole that connects the compression chamber to the barrel; as one of my shooting mates is always saying, 'It's not rocket science, is it?' Well not quite, but I do believe that there is rather more to the science of the transfer port than

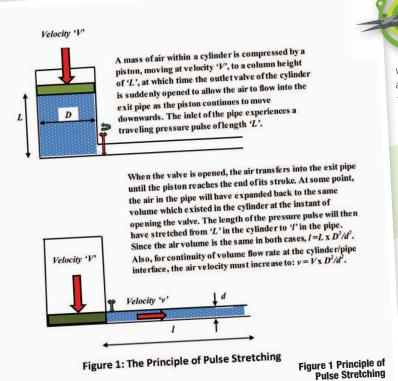
we might initially think, and I hope that this article may come close to finally explaining how the transfer port functions and why it needs to function in a particular way.

The right starting point for a technical article is to summarise what is known and accepted as 'state of the art', before moving on to any new material. However, with regard to the transfer port, the almost total lack of reliable published information leaves us with no consensus on how the transfer port can actually control the transfer of energy from the air

the air at the instant the pellet releases from the breech. The air contained within the space bounded by the face of the piston seal and the rear of the pellet contains energy in two forms: firstly, 'potential energy', related to the pressure and volume to which the air is compressed and stored and, secondly, 'internal energy' which is related to the elevated temperature of the air molecules. In order to transfer maximum muzzle energy to the pellet, both forms of energy have to be converted into kinetic energy.

or too small.. This is easy to understand in the case of an undersized transfer port, where throttling of the air flow is not too difficult to envisage; but the effect of an oversized port, ostensibly offering more freedom for the air to flow from compression chamber to barrel, is harder to account for. The explanation lies in the two functions of the transfer port: to act as an efficient conduit for the compression pulse into the barrel and also to facilitate the conversion of the internal energy of the air, ultimately into the

TECHNICAL AIRGUN: TRANSFER PORT



which assumes constant air density throughout the compression/ expansion cycle. This assumption is obviously not valid for the whole of the springer cycle; but the resulting simple ratio for velocities (v = V x D2/d2) is correct at single specific points along the airflow and, as we shall see later, is an essential part in the process of calculating the necessary transfer port size. For overall optimal springer performance, however, we should not be aiming to influence the volume flow rate explicitly,

but should be aiming for

Figure 2 shows measured velocities for the pellet at different points in the barrel bore. All published experimental work, including these particular results from David Robson of DJR Engineering Solutions, along with previous experiments by the Cardews ('The Airgun from Trigger to Target') and similar tests by John Bowkett (published in Airgun World about 20 years ago), show the same kind of characteristic pellet acceleration. The right computer model can reassuringly reproduce almost exactly the same non-exponential velocity response, but is generally unable to allow for the variable friction conditions which pertain for different pellet/rifling interfaces. Fortunately, the effect of sliding pellet friction is negligible in this respect, so I think that we can reliably use the ideas involved to

kinetic energy of the pellet. In order for the necessary cooling to take place, the volume of air must be allowed to expand sufficiently, and at a rate which can be accommodated within the time that the pellet is in the barrel. This is achieved by elongating the length and timing of the compression pulse, from typically about 10mm, taking around one millisecond, to a good proportion of the barrel length, taking something in the region of three milliseconds or more. The principle behind this idea of 'pulse-stretching' is simple and familiar, as Figure 1 attempts to illustrate.

"For overall optimal springer performance, however, we should not be aiming to influence the volume flow rate explicitly"

FIGURE 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF **PULSE-STRETCHING**

The diagram shows how pulse length and velocity vary with flow diameter; but, as it stands, this model does not apply without reservation to the springer. In fact, this illustration, which Jim Tyler calls the 'stirrup pump model', is based on volume conservation,

some overall control of the mass flow rate of the air transferring from the compression chamber to the barrel for the whole time that the pellet is under acceleration. This point becomes clear when we take a close look at the way in which the pellet accelerates through the barrel. **CLUES FROM THE PELLET VELOCITY CURVES**

explain exactly what is going on.

The way in which pellet velocity increases with time is easily found from the velocity/position curve and Figure 3 shows the velocity/ time response for a typical full power springer (in this case, a Weihrauch HW95). We can see that the velocity of the pellet increases linearly for the first 20% or so of the barrel time, until the

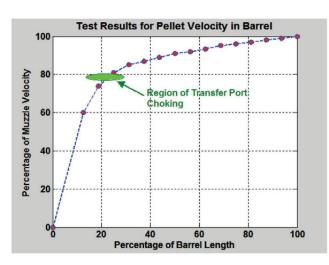


Figure 2 Typical Experimental Results for Pellet Velocity

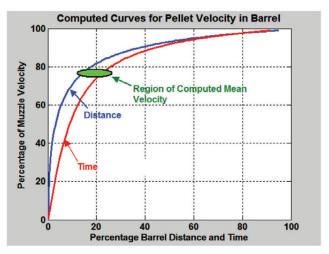


Figure 3 Computed Pellet Velocity 'v' Time and Distance



"The way in which pellet velocity increases with time is easily found from the velocity/position curve"

pressure of the expanding air begins to drop significantly. The velocity then continues to increase, but at a gradually reducing rate for about another 10% of the time. From this time onwards, the air flow in the transfer port is supersonic and the port remains choked until the pellet finally reaches the muzzle.

Depending on the calibre and length of barrel, the transit time of the pellet in the barrel will normally fall within the region of one and a half to three milliseconds, with the shortest time applying to 0.177 pellets, and 'average' 0.22 pellets taking about two to three milliseconds. The duration of the pressure pulse in the compression chamber depends on a variety of physical factors, including cylinder bore,

piston stroke, piston mass, the recoverable energy stored in the main spring and the static pellet release pressure (typically around 20 to 25 bar).

The actual shape of the velocity curve can tell us a great deal about the force accelerating the pellet, provided that we bear in mind that the thrust of the air flow on the pellet depends on the product of the mass flow rate and velocity of the air. This force, in turn, is equal to the acceleration of the pellet multiplied by its mass. A bit of thought then leads to the conclusion that, when the slope of the pellet velocity/time curve is constant, the mass flow rate should also be constant. This condition prevails until the port starts to choke and suggests that, as the air expands from the









transfer port into the barrel and subsequently decompresses, its density falls in such a way as to partially compensate for the increase in volume. Once the port chokes, the mass flow rate is again virtually constant, but at a lower value than in the unchoked phase of the shot cycle.

The absolutely critical fact to grasp in this explanation is that the transition point from unchoked

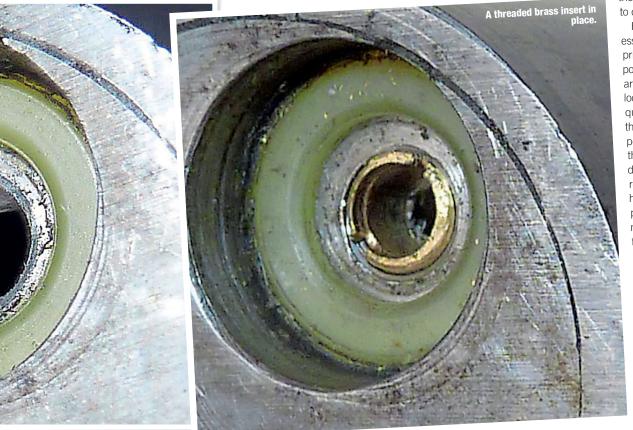
"The absolutely critical fact to grasp in this explanation is that the transition point from unchoked flow to choked flow"

flow to choked flow, and the consequent shape of the velocity curve, depends on the diameter of the transfer port. A smaller transfer port will advance the commencement of choking, whilst

a larger port will delay the onset until later in the shot cycle. A grossly undersized transfer port may throttle the air to such an extent that complete energy transfer cannot take place within the available barrel volume. On the other hand, if the transfer port is much too large, the internal energy of the air may not have sufficient expansion time to

convert effectively into the flow energy needed to drive the pellet.

Having established the essential operating principles of the transfer port, the next part of this article, will take a close look at some of the key questions concerning the sizing of the transfer port. The answers to those questions will draw on some new test results and will, I hope, help to clear up a few prevailing misconceptions. The tests were conducted for us, by professional engineers and technicians, using the kind of laboratory facilities that a 'home tinkerer' like me simply does not have access to, and I am immensely grateful that they allowed me to badger them into it.



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WALTHER LGV Challenge, synthetic .177 2 mod. Shot only 1 tin of pellets. Excellent condition. Buyer collects. Norfolk £150, no offers, try before you buy. Tel: 07852149760 (Staffordshire).

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6499266 (Glasgow).

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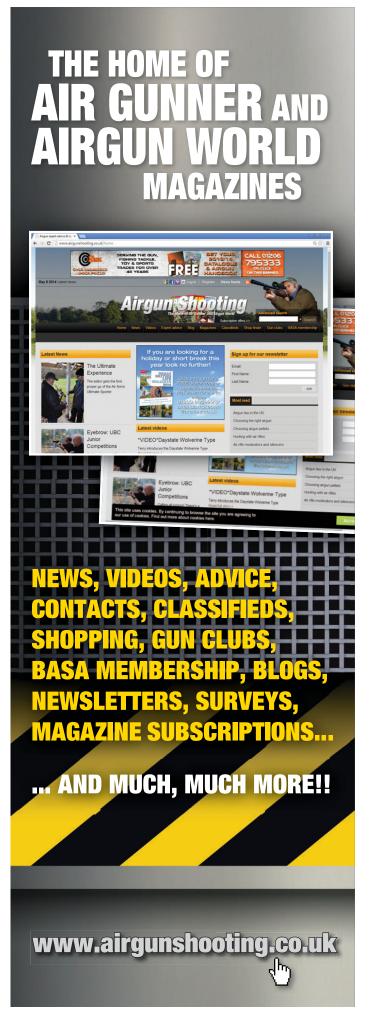
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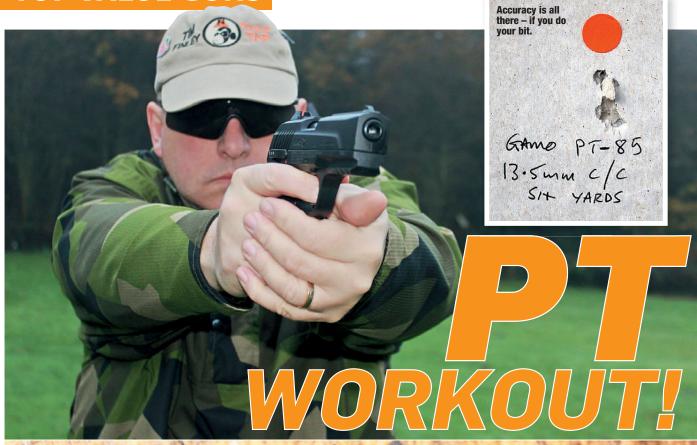
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TOP VALUE GUNS



Tim Finley tests the fitness of a high-economy handgun

Blow-back action, CO2-powered pistols have a huge global fan base, and one of the main players in this extensive marketplace is Gamo of Spain I've been reminding

myself just why these guns are so popular, via the PT-85, which is made in Japan for Gamo. This is a good-looking pistol and a proper handful, with plenty of features. That means I'd better get on with testing it, then.

STANDARD **POWER UNIT**

As with the vast majority of 'gas' pistols, this one runs off a 12-gramme CO2 bulb, housed in the butt. To get at the bulb compartment, you need to pull downward on the bottom-

rear section of the grip, revealing

the top of the bulb slot and the

piercing screw, which is driven by a fold-down metal toggle. Once the CO2 bulb has been inserted,

neck-first, and the screw

tightened, the grip cover can slide back into place. The toggle can be locked into the folded position due to a clever, spring-loaded ball

"I've been reminding

myself just why these

guns are so popular"

MADE IN JAPAN for GAMO

I think it's a handsome handful.

detent. That's neat.

SAFETY FIRST

The large metal safety catch on the right-hand side of the action pivots at its rear, and

inside the lever is a secondary latch. This serrated latch has to be pulled backwards when you want to put the gun into 'fire' mode. The gun is on 'safe'

when the lever has been pressed down and the end lines up with an 'S' on the frame. Pull back the middle section and push the lever up to line up with an 'F' on the frame and it reveals a red dot, signifying the gun is ready to fire. You do not need to push back this secondary lever in order to put the gun back into 'safe'.

MAGAZINE

This pellet-firing pistol uses not one, but two, rotary, 8-shot magazines, housed on each end of its 'stick', which is inserted in the front of the grip. Fire off the first 8 shots, push the magazine release button on the left-hand side of the frame just behind the trigger, and the magazine stick is



pushed out of the bottom of the grip under spring pressure. Then, simply flip the stick, re-insert, and fire off the next 8 shots. The magazine cannot be inserted into the gun the wrong way around, but you do have to press the bottom of the magazine firmly into the gun to locate it.

pushed all the way in, or you'll get iams.

FUEL EFFICIENT

Over the chronograph the gun produced around 1.5 ft.lbs. for four mags', or 64 shots' worth, from each CO2 capsule, which is more than I expected from a

"64 shots' worth, from each CO2 capsule, which is more than I expected"

The twin rotary sections of the magazine stick are easy to load with pellets - there's even a diagram to denote the correct way round the pellets go - and you can load two pellets at a time before you have to rotate the mag' manually to continue loading. As always, make sure the pellets are

blow-back pistol. Due to that blow-back action, on firing, the slide then cocks the hammer for the next shot, which uses CO2, so this pistol's 'economy rate' really is quite impressive. The trigger is a wide, curved job, and for the first shot you can use it in either single-, or double-action. In



double-action, where trigger pressure cocks the action and fires the shot, the pull is fairly heavy at 2.8kg, but that will come down a full kilo if you opt for single-action and manually cock the hammer before firing.

You can tell when you are running out of gas because the slide stops going back far enough to cock the hammer. That's the time to replace the CO2 bulb, and as stated I found this was after four magazines' worth of shots, but that figure will vary greatly depending upon the ambient air temperature.

SEEING THE SIGHTS

The sight base is 144mm long and the rearsight notch has a white dot each side of it, to work with the single white dot on the fore sight. These dots are not paint but white plastic inserts; they also have a cone-shaped indentation in the middle which collects more light and keeps them bright. Another neat bit of design for sure.

Carefully aimed shots gave me a 13.5mm diameter group at six yards and in fast-fire fun mode that doubled in size.

SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer	Gamo
Country of origi	in Japan
Distributor	BSA UK Ltd 0121 7728543
Model	PT-85 Blow-back
Туре	CO2-powered, multi-shot pistol
Barrel length	125 mm
Calibre	.177 pellet
Action	Blow-back
Sights	Open notch and post
Sight Base	144mm
Trigger weight	1.8kg (blow-back single action)
Overall length	200mm
Weight	0.775Kg

RRP £109.00

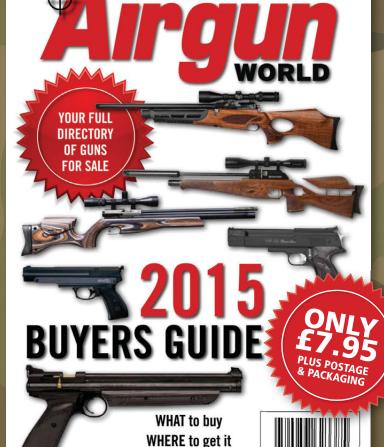
VERDICT

I really liked the Gamo PT-85 blow-back. It's well made, accurate, and it really does 'kick' as it was designed to do - you really can feel it pushing back – and coupled with the blow-back action it's easy to see why it's a best-seller.





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HARDMAN'S HUNTING

After the toughest year in his hunting life, Phil Hardman rides into

The last year wasn't a great one for me, as a hunter, or on a more personal level. My four year-old daughter Casey's illness, and subsequent chemotherapy treatment, took its toll on the whole family, and suddenly my number one love, hunting, had to take a back seat. It didn't just happen because of a lack of time, or any other outside reason. I often just struggled to find the motivation to leave my family; life was upside-down for all of us, it nearly tore us apart, and easily could have, had we not come together as a family, and stuck it out no matter what. I have barely left my wife's side

hunting just seemed the least important reason of them all. I felt guilty and selfish for doing it. Being out of the house for hours, yet being so close to home, I felt I should be there, not in the fields. I haven't ever told my wife this; I haven't told anyone, nor admitted it to myself until I just typed it here. I would imagine that many of you out there have been in a similar situation, with an ill family member, a bereavement, or maybe your own health, and I also imagine it's a normal response to a crisis in the family, but I never ever imagined it was one I would experience.

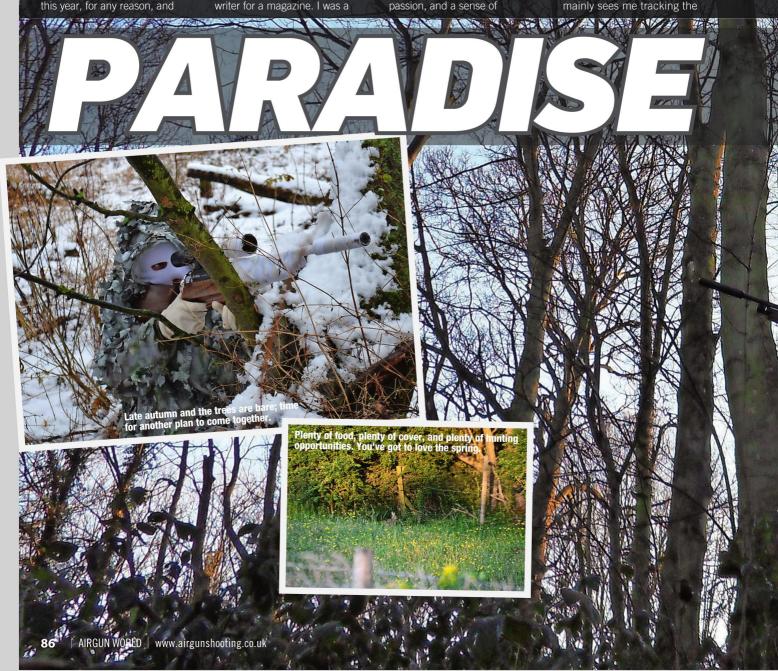
I lived for hunting. I was even a writer for a magazine. I was a

'proper' hunter. I have actually had many feelings of not being a 'proper' hunter this year, whatever one of those is, but I was somewhat ashamed that I wasn't going out as much as I used to. I was letting myself down, letting the farmers down, the readers, the editor, everybody! Strange what goes through your mind when times are tough, eh? Well, the good new is that Casey finished her chemotherapy in September, and although it's taken a while for things to begin to go back to normal, and the emotional turmoil to heal within our family, it finally has, and as 2014 becomes 2015, I find myself with a renewed passion, and a sense of

excitement about hunting that I haven't had in a while, and it feels great! I've begun planning for the coming year, things I am looking forward to most, and any situations that I know will be coming up, ready to exploit them as soon as they do.

A TIME TO PLAN

I make my plans for the coming year every winter, and although they often change as the year goes by, most do not, they stay the same, just as they have, year in, year out, for over a decade. The seasons repeat themselves, as does nature, and therefore so must we as hunters. Winter mainly sees me tracking the



2015 on a supercharged mojo

main flock of woodpigeons around to find out where their daytime roost is, and once located, I tend to ambush them on a morning.

This isn't an easy task because finding them can be tricky, so I tend to look for their main source of food first. Rape is always a safe bet, but look anywhere that might contain a flock of birds; the sky is often a good start and with the flock sometimes numbering thousands of birds, all you need to do to find them is look up! Due to the lack of cover that winter brings, ambushing them is really the only way to go, because stalking is just too difficult. There may be a

S VENT SERVICE TO

thousand eyes staring at you, and if you move, every single bird will take to the sky, and probably not return that day. Hunting woodies in winter is unforgiving, which is why I love it! Get there early, in good camo, top to bottom, and hide as best you can, picking them off one after the other as they arrive, that's the order of the day. Get it right, and it's one of the most fantastic days you can have in the winter, it truly is.

EASIER DAYS

Once the woodies have left, or if I fancy an easier, more sheltered day out, especially if the weather is really bad, I concentrate my

attention on the farmyard, which in the depths of winter, is a real magnet for vermin, particularly magpies, collared doves, and rats. You might notice that I haven't mentioned rabbits, and that is quite simply because I stop hunting them in winter. They aren't around as much, and their numbers are at an all-time low compared to the rest of the year. The survivors have evaded my best attempts all through the summer and I think they have earned a break. The farmer on my permission agrees, so unless there's a massive rise in rabbit numbers, they're safe from me until the vernal equinox, in late march (March 20th in 2015) which signals the first day of spring

SPECIAL STALKS

I do have one caveat however, and that is snowfall. Once there is snow on the ground, I will specifically target rabbits. The reason for this is simple; have you ever experienced lamping, with no lamp, or night vision hunting, with no NV? Well, the next time there's a decent enough snowfall to turn the fields white, get out after dark, while the snow is still soft underfoot, and experience one of the most special events in hunting: night stalking with the naked eye! I take just one or two rabbits on these special hunts, but the memories last forever. As we roll into spring, I begin to give the rabbits my full attention, as they begin breeding and spending more and more time



Ah, the halcyon days of summer. Won't it be wonderful to feel the sun on our backs again

funting woodies in winter is unforgiving - which is why I love it

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above ground. The cover is still thin enough to be able to see them, but there is enough of it to hide ourselves and with the hormonal distractions they are having from the breeding season, it's one of the best times to make a decent dent in the numbers, just as they're increasing at their highest rate.

ACCESS REGAINED

I also regain access to the woods on my permission that have been out of bounds due to the pheasant shooting season, so while the leaves are still sparse, I try to bag as many grey squirrels, and woodpigeons as I can by simply stalking through the woods in full camouflage, another of my most favoured techniques. As spring becomes summer, I tend to take advantage of the fresh ground cover to enjoy stalking the hedgerows of the more open areas on my shoot.

Rabbits, pigeons, magpies and crows can all be found out and about on an early summer's evening, and whilst the sun shines and the nights are lighter, the days are not yet at their hottest, so temperatures are bearable. Of course, within a month or so, I am usually reduced to a sweating wreck every time I am caught out in the

direct sunlight as the sun reaches its highest point in the sky, so another change of tactic sees me begin to spend more time sitting under trees in the crop fields, or in the small woods that border them. My targets here are mainly woodpigeons that have begun to

begin shooting at night again now. I know it won't be long until autumn arrives, and with it the dark nights, so I tend to get my kit ready and make sure it's all working as it should in preparation for September.

"Oh how I love it and every single thing about it"

congregate in their favourite sitty trees, as if watching and waiting for the crops to turn that golden-brown. Away from the heat of the day, I

PIGEON HARVEST

By mid-August I start to ready myself in earnest for the coming harvest, which brings with it the



watching flightlines. I begin to build up a picture of the birds' activity in my area, search for potential hiding spots, or ready hides I already have from previous years. I barely do anything else all month, constantly nipping out, just to check and double check. Have the fields been cut? Is that a tractor I hear? Come

bagging 70 or 80 birds in a session, and on many occasions too. In fact, I tend to get disappointed if I bag less than 30 these days, so used am I to good results.

SQUIRRELS AT LAST

As harvest draws to a close, I get

had some great results doing this, and it's nice to have somewhere to retreat to after months of warm weather, when the sudden cold snap can come as a bit of a shock to the system.

AND FINALLY ...

The final few weeks of the year

plans I have and things I look forward to, and even after a decade or more, repeating them all annually as if they have become some kind of ritual, I still enjoy them immensely. Yeah, so, I had a hard year last year, but this year, Hardman is back - and he's loving it!



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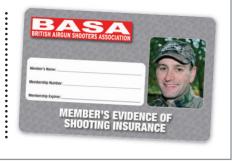


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NGLESEY RAB

Rosie swaps eggs for rabbit in a new take on another terrifically tasty treat

I have no idea whether or not rabbit is cooked like this in Anglesey. This is my take on Anglesey Eggs, which a friend of mine told me about, and I've a feeling that 'Anglesey' is only in the title of the recipe because it contains leeks. It could just as easily have been named 'Cardiff Eggs' - not quite the same ring to it, I grant you - or any other town in Wales, but I'm sure the people of Anglesey would eat my version given the chance.

I added a couple of slices of prosciutto to mine, but that's only because I happened to have them handy and I like the saltiness with the sweetness of the rabbit. You could also use diced streaky bacon, or lardons

bit of hassle to make - especially the cheese sauce, but it will be well worth the effort, trust me. I don't know why anything mashed potato-based is so satisfying, but

"I like the saltiness with the sweetness of the rabbit"

- or omit the bacon element altogether.

I tried this dish on a cold and wet Saturday afternoon, curled up in front of a TV with a bottle of white wine. You might think it's a

it is one of the best comfort foods out there, and I'm not the only one who thinks so.

This also makes an ideal starter for a dinner party. Just assemble as directed below, but place the

ingredients into ramekins instead of one large ovenproof pot. You can make this dish ahead of time and reheat it in a hot oven just before you're ready to eat - it only takes about half an hour - or make two and freeze one; there are loads of options, and I defy anyone not to enjoy eating it!

If you don't have any crisps in the house you can whizz up some breadcrumbs, mix with a glug of olive oil, salt and pepper and some mixed herbs and use that instead - crisps are crunchier, though.

METHOD:

Boil and mash potatoes, season with salt and pepper – set aside.

Fry leeks and bacon(prosciutto) until leeks are just tender, about three minutes. Add rabbit — crumble the stock cube over.

Knock up the cheese sauce: Make a roux — that's flour and butter heated gently and milk added gradually — and add the cheese.

Assemble: Line an ovenproof dish with mashed potato, add the leek and rabbit mix, pour over the cheese sauce and top with crushed crisps.

Bake in a moderate oven 180°C for 20-30 minutes, or until the sauce is bubbling.

Serve with a green vegetable and several glasses of Sauvignon Blanc.



INGREDIENTS:

2lbs Maris Pipers, or white potatoes

Butter and hot milk for mashing

2 leeks, sliced finely
Rabbit meat, cooked
and removed from the
bone

Couple of slices of prosciutto (optional)

Chicken stock cube

Cheese sauce —
heaped tablespoon
flour, knob of butter,
half a pint of milk,
two good handfuls of
grated mature
cheddar.

Plain crisps, crushed lightly.



Fry the leeks and bacon for about three minutes.



Line a dish with mashed potato.



Add leek and rabbit mixture.



Pour the cheese sauce to cover.



Top with crushed crisps.



Bake until it looks like this.









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